

Altar Discovered

Archaeology

Discovery of a remarkable brick-covered altar, rising in a series of steps, has been reported from the Temple of Mekal at Beisan, by Alan Rowe, director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum's expedition in Palestine. The temple dates back almost 3,500 years and was an important building in the Canaanite city referred to in the Bible as Beth-Shan. The altar is more than 16 feet wide and about 12 feet deep.

A small room close by the altar has also been uncovered and in it was found a sloping socket, which once held a wooden peg. Mr. Rowe concludes that this room was intended for use of the temple guard, who stood watch lest any layman approach too near the sanctuary. The peg suggests that the watchman was assisted in his task by a fierce hunting dog.

"In this connection," Mr. Rowe states, "it will be recalled that the magnificent basalt panel which we found only a short time ago depicts lions fighting with dogs. It is probable that this panel originally was placed against the door of the temple, and that the dog shown in each of the two registers of the panel was represented as defending the temple against a lion emblematic of death and destruction."

Among the other latest discoveries, the report cites a great circular oven for roasting the animals slaughtered upon the altar of sacrifice, bronze weapons and chain links, a hairpin, scarabs, and cylinder seals. The altar of sacrifice was a stone structure, in contrast with the great brick-covered altar which was for cult objects.

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Trans-Pacific Air Chart

Aviation

The day when airships and airplanes will regularly sail across the Pacific Ocean is foreshadowed by one of the latest charts issued by the Hydrographic Office of the U. S. Navy. It shows the upper air conditions over the entire North Pacific Ocean for the benefit of would-be Pacific fliers. For over a year the Hydrographic Office has issued similar upper-air charts of the North Atlantic, so that now U. S. Government charts are available for aviators all the way from Europe to Asia.

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A Chinese inventor of the tenth century made a musical kite, like a wind harpsichord.

More Accidents By Women Taxi Drivers

Psychology

The perennial family argument as to whether men or women drivers get into more automobile accidents can at last be backed up with some facts and figures that indicate sex differences.

Records of men and women taxicab drivers in a Pennsylvania city have been watched for an entire year by Dr. Morris Viteles and Helen M. Gardner, of the University of Pennsylvania. The results, reported in the *Personnel Journal*, show that the women taxi drivers were responsible for three times as many accidents as men, though judging by claims following accidents, the women were more successful in keeping out of serious trouble.

These men and women operated the same kind of car, and all equipment was regularly overhauled. Both drove in stormy weather, and in the same traffic conditions. The men, however, were more experienced on the whole than the women, for some of the women were not experienced drivers when hired, but were given a thorough course of training and immediately placed on cabs. This would seem to be an important psychological factor, but the taxicab company records could not be kept in such detail as to show whether the new driver offsets inexperience with excessive caution, or whether this caution oversteps the mark and leads to an excessive number of cases of collisions.

About 2,000 men drivers were on

the employment rolls at a time, and about 40 women. The men drove 28,431,719 miles in the year and had 7,311 accidents. The women drove 348,979 miles and had 268 accidents. In terms of revenue the women had three and one-half times as many accidents per thousand dollars as the men.

A special study of accident costs in one representative month showed that there were 191 claims in the accidents of men drivers and four claims in cases involving women drivers. The claims indicate that women got into less serious mix-ups than the men, for the total cost of claims against men was \$14,605, as compared with \$75 against women drivers.

The psychologists conclude that the figures from the study "favor the point of view that the present generation of women drivers is more susceptible to accidents than the present generation of men drivers."

They also state: "The extent to which this is the result of relative inexperience in driving, or of a sex-determined difference in susceptibility to accidents in traffic, cannot be finally determined from an examination of the present data. The fact, however, that a sampling of women suffer more accidents when driving under the same conditions as a somewhat similar sampling of men is clearly established."

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Tracing Cloth Transparent to Ultraviolet

Physics

Ordinary tracing cloth, such as draftsmen use for their drawings that are to be blue-printed, is likely to become a favorite curtain material on account of a discovery by C. H. Young at McGill University.

Incidental to investigation of the effect of ultraviolet light on blue-print paper, Mr. Young found that the beneficial short wave-length radiation from the sun will pass through the tracing cloth, although the ordinary paper and cloth act as a barrier. A single layer of tracing cloth will, moreover, screen off much of the heat.

He suggests that a single thickness of tracing cloth between wide-meshed wire screens can now replace curtains and blinds and with this screen before an open sunny window it will be possible to enjoy the advantages of ultra-

violet light without undue heat or glare. The eyes should be protected, however.

Ultraviolet light, invisible to the human eye, is necessary for healthy growth of human beings and animals. Since the demonstrated effectiveness of sunlight and artificial ultraviolet light in preventing rickets and aiding other disease treatment, many glasses and glass-like substances transparent to ultraviolet light have been placed on the market.

Mr. Young believes that tracing cloth will provide a cheap and effective substitute for these many special glasses and that the material hitherto confined to drawing-boards will find its use in sun-parlors, country cottages and on chicken farms.

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