

Prosperity Due to Indian

Archaeology

The Indian laid the foundation of the economic greatness of the United States, Dr. Clark Wissler, professor of anthropology, Yale University, told the Conference on Midwestern Archaeology in St. Louis.

"It is not that we took merely the Indian's land," he said. "We acquired tobacco, maize, potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes, and some forty additional food plants. The yearly value of these products produced in the United States alone, when stated in dollars, is incomprehensibly large. We would have discovered tobacco

in time, maybe, but it took the Indians centuries to develop the art and the plant. Maize, the economic backbone of agriculture in the Mississippi Valley, would have remained undiscovered for a long time at least.

"It was native Indian trade that enriched Europe and made the rapid development of our country possible. The Indian was a consumer of goods, eager to buy and to pay extravagantly in furs and other products. In truth, it may be said that the American Indian put the white man on the map."

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The Earth and the Ancients—Continued

in geometry, on seeing these, would truly think the workmanship most excellent, yet would esteem it ridiculous to consider these things seriously, as if from thence he were to learn the truth, as to what were in equal, in duplicate, or in any other proportion. Surely it would be ridiculous, replied he. And do not you then think, that he who is truly an astronomer will be affected in the same manner, when he looks up to the orbits of the planets? And that he will reckon that the heavens and all in them are indeed established by the artifices of the heavens, in the most beautiful manner possible for such works to be established; but would not he deem him absurd, who should imagine that this proportion of night, with day, and of both these to a month, and of a month to a year, and of other stars to such like things, and towards one another, existed always in the same manner, and in no way suffered any change, though they have a body, and are visible; and search by every method to apprehend the truth of these things? So it appears to me, replied he, whilst I am hearing you. Let us then make use of problems, said I, in the study of astronomy, as in geometry. And let us dismiss the heavenly bodies, if we intend truly to apprehend astronomy, and render profitable instead of unprofitable that part of the soul which is naturally wise.

Aristotle (384-322 B. C.) was born at Stagira, but became a pupil of Plato in Athens at 17. He remained with the older philosopher for the remaining 20 years of his life, teaching and developing a new experimental method of thought. Plato considered Aristotle his most brilliant student in spite of the difference in

their method of thought. Upon Plato's death Aristotle left Athens. Three years' residence at the court of Hermias, tyrant of Atarneus, whose niece he married, ended with his patron's death. Eight years with Philip of Macedon as tutor to his son Alexander, afterward called the Great, terminated upon Philip's death. Aristotle then returned to Athens where he kept his famous school in the Lyceum and wrote his many books. The twelve years of Alexander's glory, when Aristotle was between the ages of 48 and 60, comprised the life of the Lyceum. Alexander's death made Athens unsafe for his old tutor, and the last two years of Aristotle's life were spent practically in exile in Chalcis.

Plato (427-347 B. C.) was in his youth a devoted friend of Socrates, whom he made one of the characters in his dialogues. Socrates was condemned to drink hemlock in 399, when Plato was 28 years old. During his later life, Plato taught the youth of Athens in the grove called Academus, and there in 367 Aristotle became one of his pupils. Case sums up the difference between the two thinkers: "Philosophically, Platonism is a philosophy of universal forms, Aristotelianism a philosophy of individual substances: practically, Plato makes us think first of the supernatural and the kingdom of heaven, Aristotle of the natural and the whole world."

Earth is the third planet from the sun, around which it revolves at a mean distance, "as every schoolboy knows" of 93 million miles. From its neighboring planets on either side, the features of its surface would probably be indistinguishable during a large part of the time on account of its atmosphere and frequent clouds. Under the best visibility, the works of man would be quite invisible to dwellers upon both Mars and Venus. Venus-ians, if their own atmosphere did not interfere, would get the best view of our planet, for the Earth and its Moon would appear to them as a great double planet, the most conspicuous object in the night sky. To the Martians, Earth would show phases as Venus and Mercury do to us, and the time of their occurrence would prevent their ever getting a good view of the whole surface of the Earth.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Marsh Marigold

Usually a little later in starting than its cousins, the buttercups, the marsh marigold makes up for lost time when it does come by bursting into a veritable bombshell of yellow light. All over the plashy edges of ponds, and marking ankle-wetting meadows with cushiony tufts of gold and glossy green, this is one of the most attractive of all our ornaments of wet places. It is, by the same token, one of the most aggravating of flowers if you want to pluck it, for it always grows just beyond arm's-length reach from the nearest solid ground, and you have to pay for a nosegay with a pair of wet feet.

In a world grown somewhat anxious about conserving wild flowers, it is a relief to find one that can take care of itself in this manner, and one, moreover, that can be gathered by the handful or even cropped by splashing cows, without apparent danger of depleting the visible supply. For the marsh marigold is a lusty and rank grower, and seems to be able to replace lost branches and leaves as nonchalantly as so much marsh grass.

If you have had the curiosity to gather some flowers of this plant, you will have a chance to read for yourself a lesson in that outdoor physiology of plants which the learned call ecology. You will see that each stem is hollow, or sometimes pierced lengthwise with several hollows. This is a common device among plants that grow with their heads in air and their roots in water or thoroughly soggy soil. Roots must have air to breathe, just as leaves do, and if the water excludes it, the next best thing is to bring it down through natural air-pipes which the plant can grow for itself.

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Whether tea is known as black or green depends on the method of preparing the leaves.