

## Roman Temples—Continued

refuse to eat pork, but unlike the Jews they have forgotten the reason why.

A relatively late comer among the gods worshipped in the temple town of Trier, and a complete outsider so far as the group of native gods is concerned, was the Persian deity Mithra, favorite of the Roman legions throughout the empire. Mithraism became widespread wherever there were Roman soldiers about two centuries before the birth of Christ, and for a long time during the decay of the old Roman cults this Oriental religion, which really had much to recommend it, was a serious rival of Christianity.

Mithra, according to the popular belief of two thousand years ago, though of mortal form, was not of mortal birth. He sprang from the living rock in a cave, and his exploits formed a long and involved gospel related only to the initiate. Only fragments of his story have survived, but it is known that his earthly pilgrimage centered around the pursuit and eventual sacrifice of a great bull. Heroic fortitude and self-denial were expected of his imitators, and since women were excluded from his worship he naturally became the favorite god of the Roman legionaries.

One large shrine, or Mithraeum, dedicated to him, has been found in the temple group at Trier. It is unique among the structures excavated by Doctor Loeschke in that it was a part of a dwelling-house. No other domestic structure of any sort has thus far been found in the holy enclosure. And buried in the debris of this house was one of the best-preserved Mithraic sculptures that has ever been uncovered. Its central panel shows the birth of Mithra, and surrounding the young god's likeness are various carved symbols of his later career.

But not even Mithra the powerful could hold his shrine against the rising tide of Christianity. Survivors of bitter persecutions, the Christians could see no good in the gods once favored by the pagan emperors. So as soon as they were strong enough they turned on them and destroyed their shrines and altars and statues in one zealous carnival of wreckage.

In a corner of one of the ruined buildings Doctor Loeschke has found the one Christian sign that has been yielded by all the excavations so far conducted at this place. It is a cross-shaped safety pin or brooch,

such as men used for securing their cloaks. Possibly some laborer, working for the image-smashing bishop, tore this off his garment as he was swinging his pickax or straining at his wrecking crowbar. Lying here among the broken and forgotten relics of paganism, this little metal cross is like a seal of the final triumph of Christendom. The Nazarene had conquered.

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## Extinct Hornless Rhino

*Paleontology*

The first rhinoceros had no horn and was the largest land mammal that ever inhabited the earth. Prof. A. A. Borisyak of the Soviet Academy of Science is responsible for these startling statements.

Several years ago Prof. Borisyak found in Turkestan some huge bones of an unknown extinct animal. At present a complete skeleton, said to be the only one in existence, is set up in the Geological Institute at Leningrad. It is now known under the long name of *Indricotherium Asiaticum*. A detailed study of the skeleton, which proved to be remains of a forefather of the modern rhino, yielded much new and valuable information.

The elephant, formerly regarded as the largest land mammal, must give his place of honor to *Indricotherium*. Even now when his mighty frame is reduced to mere bones skilfully strung together, the *Indricotherium* towers nearly 15 feet. The biggest present day elephant would hardly reach his shoulders. No other known land mammal, living or extinct, can range in size with this prehistoric monster.

Perhaps the most peculiar feature of this first rhinoceros is that it lacks the familiar horn. It seems that horns are rather a recent acquisition of the rhino tribe.

Big and strong as *Indricotherium* must have been, he probably had a very mild disposition, according to Prof. Borisyak. Teeth and general construction of the skeleton show that the *Indricotherium Asiaticum* could eat plant food only, preferably tree leaves. His body was slightly like that of the modern giraffe, because of a long neck. Notwithstanding his enormous bulk, the animal must have been very fleet of foot.

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## 42 Ice Cream Cans

*Metrology*

When you buy ice cream now, in quantities of a gallon or so, it may come in one of forty-two different kinds of cans. Before long this unnecessary variety may be reduced to five kinds, if the recommendation of the Simplified Practice Committee of the International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers is adopted.

At the meeting recently of the National Conference on Weights and Measures, Ridgway Kennedy, chairman of the committee, told what was being done in an effort to introduce savings from simplified practice in the ice cream industry.

During the past year, he said, his committee made a survey of the bulk ice cream containers in use throughout the country, and found the forty-two different styles. There were eleven 5-gallon cans of different shape, thirteen 3-gallon cans, ten 2-gallon cans and eight 1-gallon cans.

"As the general use of mechanical refrigerated cabinets throughout the industry has, to a large extent, standardized the use of the 5-gallon cans, we felt it unnecessary to consider the 2 and 3-gallon cans, as most of us are no longer placing orders for these sizes and are merely using those we have until they are worn out and can be discarded," said Mr. Kennedy.

To provide a size between one and five gallons, it was also decided to adopt a 2½-gallon can, two of which would fit into the 5-gallon hole in the refrigerated cabinet.

As the 5-gallon holes in the cabinet are of two different shapes, one tall and the other squat, the committee has adopted two alternative shapes for the five and two-and-a-half gallon cans. These, with the new one-gallon can will adequately serve the purpose of the great variety of older cans.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the smaller quart and pint cartons for home use show almost as much diversity as the larger cans, and that his committee is now working on them with a view to simplification.

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With the establishment of the Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and the Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, during the past year, there are now 21 members of the national park system.