

Ancient Man Reported from Florida

Anthropology

The discovery of a stone arrow or spear point lying directly under the bones of a mastodon has been made at Melbourne, Florida, by C. P. Singleton, working for Harvard University and has just been announced. This evidence strengthens the much debated theory that there were human beings in America thousands of years ago when mastodons and mammoths inhabited the country.

Dr. J. W. Gidley, of the Smithsonian Institution, who has made previous finds of stone weapons in association with prehistoric animals at the same site, also announces an important discovery consisting of a large stone tool. Some scientists who doubt that man inhabited this coun-

try more than four or five thousand years have suggested that the Indian weapons found with the fossil animal bones could have slipped into deeper, older layers of earth than the surface layer of their own age. The large tool, of the type known as a turtle-back scraper, would not be likely to have worked its way into a deeper level, Dr. Gidley points out. Dr. Gidley found it four feet from the surface and two feet beneath the upper layer of the ancient formation in which the fossil bones lie buried. He stresses the point that the conditions are such that the tool could not have belonged to a higher level.

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Radio Time Signal

Astronomy

Amateur star-gazers will be aided by a new time signal being broadcast from the U. S. Naval Observatory here through the Naval Radio Station NAA at Arlington.

Begun on June 1, according to Capt. Charles S. Freeman, superintendent of the observatory, a set of signals is now being sent out at 3:00 a. m., Eastern Standard Time, on a frequency of 113 kilocycles or 2650 meters.

For about a year, said Capt. Freeman, the observatory has been sending out signals at this time, from NAA, on a frequency of 8030 kilocycles or 37.34 meters, and from NSS at Annapolis, on 17.8 kilocycles, or 17,040 meters. These signals are chiefly for the benefit of the Pacific Coast and the Hawaiian Islands, as well as ships in the Pacific. With the frequencies used, however, it has been difficult to receive them with simple apparatus east of the Mississippi.

As many amateur astronomers, lacking accurate clocks, depend on the signals for their time, it was sometimes difficult to carry the time over from the 10:00 p. m. signal to noon the following day, the next signal that could be easily received. By having a signal in the early morning hours, the astronomer can check his watch at the beginning of his observations, and again at the end, thus assuring accurate timing of the celestial events that he observes.

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Cold water is more effective than cold air as a means of cooling milk.

Doctors Not Infallible

Medicine

The failure of the radium-poisoned watch-factory workers to die within the time limit set by the physicians who examined them last year need not occasion surprise. Physicians cannot always be correct in their predictions as to the course of an illness. While experience gives a good guide as to what may be expected of a certain disease, the individual resistance varies with every patient and is a factor difficult to measure. Particularly is this true in a condition like radium poisoning which has occurred very infrequently and in which the physician has scarcely any past experience to guide him in his forecast of the probable outcome.

Patients sometimes die unexpectedly and frequently they live longer than their physician expects them to. The late Sir William Osler, when professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University some thirty years ago, examined a man suffering from a very grave form of heart disease. Sir William predicted that the man would die within six months. But he is still alive and still coming to the medical school every year for the new students to examine and study as an example of that particular form of heart disease. Even the best and most experienced physicians may be mistaken, may underestimate the resistance of a patient to a disease.

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The U. S. Department of Agriculture is to make talking movies to demonstrate good and bad farming methods.

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Wild Rose

The radio brings us McDowell's "To a Wild Rose" several times a week now, and it is not hard to shut one's eyes and under the influence of that strange, half-formless, romantic music see a straggling natural hedge of wild roses climbing a hill among the stones of a half-ruined wall. The wild rose is an orphan flower, a Cinderella rejected by jealous gardeners intent upon their highly wrought court beauties; but there are those among us who are quite willing to play the part of the Prince who had a mind of his own and who knew natural beauty when he saw it. The wild rose will always have her friends and champions.

There is no land in the northern hemisphere that is not blessed with wild roses of one kind or another, for there are many species. Even a neighborhood that can be covered in the course of an afternoon's walk will easily afford five or six different kinds. One American wild rose species at least, the Cherokee rose, has achieved the honors of the garden and is the state flower of Georgia, but the rest must be sought in their native places in the country.

The wild rose has not been without honor even in its own fatherland, however, for the prairie states have not been behind the South in gallantry to this beautiful native flower. Iowa and South Dakota have both chosen wild roses as their state flowers.

It may be that some day we shall be willing to devote to American wild roses a little of the attention we now give exotic species from the Orient. But if we do, it is to be hoped that the craze for getting double flowers will not prevail against it, for native roses are really more lovely in their natural, golden-hearted state.

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