

PILE OF HUMAN BONES—Two of today's monks at the monastery add to the great pile of bones left by departed members of the community; the skulls go to another stack.

but the nomads could not get over the wall, and they were not equipped with siege engines to breach it. That the wall is really old is attested by marks made on it by visiting western knights during the Crusades.

St. Catherine's Monastery is known to the learned world chiefly as a repository of a

great mass of ancient manuscripts, including some of the oldest known texts of the Bible. Most of these of course are in Greek, but there are hundreds in Syrian, Arabic, Coptic and other languages. Even yet there are thousands of pages that no modern scholar's eye has ever seen.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

RADIO-PHYSICS

## "Cosmic Noise" Studied

➤ "COSMIC NOISE" which left a region in outer space about 3,000 years ago is interfering with television, radar and FM and short-wave radio communication today. These mysterious energy waves have been recorded and studied by Australian scientists.

This radio frequency radiation comes from a mysterious space in the group of stars which forms the constellation Cygnus, the swan. It is a region where there are very few stars and little visible light.

J. G. Bolton and G. J. Stanley of the Division of Radiophysics of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research have reported their investigation in the first issue of the new Australian Journal of Scientific Research (March) published in Melbourne

The radiation source in Cygnus, they explained, produces the second loudest "cosmic noise" of any place in our galaxy, the Milky Way. A place in the constellation

Sagittarius, the archer, in the center of our Milky Way produces the loudest "cosmic noise" while "solar noise" from the sun produces even greater effects on communications since the sun is so much nearer.

The point in Cygnus which "broadcasts" to earth is unusual because it sends out two kinds of signals. One signal is of constant intensity at about 100 megacycles frequency and above; the other is of varying intensity and uses frequencies below 100 megacycles.

The Australian scientists found that this spot in Cygnus sends 1,500 times more energy to the earth than any point in the surrounding area. The source is probably some 3,000 light years from the earth.

Maps of the sky showing the different frequencies of radiation coming from various spots in the heavens have been made by Grote Reber of the U. S. National Bureau of Standards.

The source of the energy waves is not associated with any stars or nebulae. The

"There are no problem children, only problem environments and parents."

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