

ANTHROPOLOGY

Ideas of Power in Africa

► THE IDEAS of power in Africa have been found to be almost exactly opposite those in Western societies.

African societies conceive authority as personal—a person is in authority because he has innate personal powers, Dr. Alvin W. Wolfe of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., told the Central States Anthropological Society meeting in Columbus, Ohio. In the Western World a man generally has power because of the office he holds.

Dr. Wolfe said that power and responsibility is held in Africa permanently, not just until a term of office ends as is often the case in the West. This is true not just for kings but for anyone in authority.

Authority in Africa is all pervasive. If a person has power, it is not just in one area or field, but in the whole of life and in all he does. In the West, however, a person generally only has authority and power in one field, as a judge in law, a doctor in medicine.

Power is also considered mystical in Africa in contrast to the West, which bases authority and power on rational grounds.

Dr. Wolfe said he has been trying to find common denominators for the way authority is conceived by the many peoples of Africa in order that it may be possible to predict what the future institutions of African nations will be.

Despite the different ways in which au-

thority shows itself from one locality to another, the general conception of it is common over all of Africa, Dr. Wolfe said.

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Ancient Hawaiians

► HAWAIIANS who lived 500 years ago had a body build very much like that of the modern white American.

The men of this ancient population averaged five feet, seven inches; the women five feet, three inches. They lived in Hawaii 175 to 500 years ago, before Europeans came to the islands.

The stature of these individuals, who had narrow hips and muscular bodies, is also almost identical to the present day population of Hawaii.

Nearly 28% died before maturity, Dr. Charles E. Snow, anthropologist at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., found from studying 1,200 skeletons of the ancient population. The greatest mortality occurred between the years one and three. The average age of adults at death was about 31 years. The teeth were generally excellent, with only 17% showing decay, Dr. Snow found.

These ancient Hawaiians customarily sat in a squatting position, evidence shows. They appear to have been a very active people. In contrast to historic records, de-

formed skulls were common among them, Dr. Snow reported at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

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Lean Men Smoke More

► LEAN MEN in a group of 167 Americans of Italian descent were found to smoke more than fat men of the same group.

This was not due to diet, calories, type of food, or intake of alcohol, Dr. Albert Damon of Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, Mass., told the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting in Columbus, Ohio. He said all of the men had approximately the same diet.

Dr. Damon said the ultimate aim of such tests is to find whether certain kinds of persons smoke more than others. He wants to find out if the size and body type of a person is connected with his smoking and with diseases associated with smoking.

If it can be determined that certain types are more prone to get diseases from smoking, they could be warned ahead of time not to smoke.

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PLANT PATHOLOGY

Sequoia Tumors Seen Genetic in Origin

► AN OLD SEQUOIA tree that looks as if it had oddly colored popcorn balls strung along its branches has been found to have a disease that somewhat resembles skin tumor. The popcorn balls are actually tumors and are believed to be of inborn or genetic origin, a theory that, if true, can shed new light on the cancer problem in humans.

The 100-foot tree, growing on the University of California campus in Berkeley, was studied by Dr. C. F. Emanuel of the physiology department.

The tumors, which have a pleasant fragrance, did not grow on the trunk of the tree but almost always grew adjacent to a bud or tiny branch. Their only connection with the tree itself was a slim shaft of woody tissue extending into the heart of the branch.

Some of the tumors, Dr. Emanuel reports, were six inches in diameter, nearly half as thick as the main tree trunk. But most of those larger than two inches were dead, probably because the connecting shaft of tissue was pinched closed.

The tumors do not appear to be caused by bacteria or fungus because the branches of nearby trees intermingling with those of the diseased tree had no tumors. In none of the tumors was there any evidence of insect parasites, often the cause of plant galls. Nor would tumor transplants grow inside healthy trees.

The fact that the woody connection for the tumor begins in the pith of the branch, Dr. Emanuel reports in *Science*, 133: 1420, 1961, indicates that this abnormal growth had an early origin from a bud.

Dr. Emanuel is now at the San Juan Research Laboratory, Bellevue, Wash.

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EFFECTS OF SMOG—Plastic enclosures in a lemon orchard will be used in an attempt to measure the effect of smog on citrus trees. The studies at the University of California, Riverside, will compare effects of "natural" and synthetic air pollutants. Dr. C. Ray Thompson, of the air research project, examines the structures.