

number of bone implements, harpoons with barbs and points, the first examples of the working of bone to be discovered in connection with the Fayum culture.

Stone implements of the Fayum type have been found in Egypt from the Siwa Oasis, through the Fayum Oasis, eastwards to the Wady el Arish and thence up to Palestine at Gaza and Ascalon. Another extension of greater importance has been brought to light by the excavations of the British School of Archaeology on a site called Badari, 30 miles south of Asyut, where a settlement was found with flints of the Fayum type. There, however, these flints were found in graves for the first time, and not on the surface, as in the Fayum. During three winters the expedition has worked on this site, finding not only flint implements, arrow heads, adzes, and the like, of the Solutrean form, but pottery very finely glazed and very hard, ivory statuettes and ivory combs, spoons, and other objects.

The date of the settlement in the Fayum is fixed by Sir Flinders Petrie at some time between 12,000 to 13,000 B. C.; for the level in which these objects were found was covered by the Nile after that date and was only dried up again when the Ptolemies stopped the flow of the Nile into the Fayum to acquire cultivable land.

Sir Flinders Petrie therefore suggests that this early culture in Egypt is derived from the same source as the Solutrean culture of Europe. He thinks that a people, originating possibly in the Caucasus or by the Caspian, split into two sections, one passing into Europe, and the other southward into Africa. Against any relation of this kind between the Solutrean culture of Europe and the Badarian culture of Egypt, as it is proposed to call it, it is argued that while pottery is associated with the culture both in the Fayum and at Badari, no palaeolithic pottery has ever been found in Europe. Sir Flinders Petrie, however, holds that the southward bound branch, passing on its way to Egypt through a favorable climate, would be able in these easy conditions to preserve its original culture, whereas the European Solutreans, hunting and fighting their way along the glacial fringe, would not be able to carry pottery and, therefore, lost the art of making it.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC DECLARED POSSIBILITY

The world has been afflicted with an unusual amount of influenza and pneumonia during the last six months. While medical authorities will not predict an epidemic like the one of 1918, they admit its possibility.

Three factors make an influenza epidemic a grave contingency: first, its apparently cyclic character; second, the coal strike; third, lack of knowledge with respect to its control.

Cyclic character means that it is likely to come back again and this is demonstrated by study of its previous occurrence. The big influenza epidemics of the past, notably in 1889 and 1918 have been characterized by recurring waves in the succeeding years. After about 1894, unfortunately, influenza faded out of public attention, until by 1918 much valuable knowledge acquired in the earlier epidemic had been forgotten. Dr. Victor C. Vaughan of the National Research Council has expressed himself, in a recent talk, as of the opinion that the present outbreak is a secondary wave of this sort.

The second factor, the coal strike, would make a recurrence of a big epidemic go hard with us. Many have attributed the increase of influenza to the scarcity and inferiority of the fuel supply though this hardly accounts for its presence in the countries that have not been in the throes of a coal strike. Insufficient heat, while it may not be a cause, has undoubtedly been an aid and abetment in the current prevalence of both influenza and pneumonia.

It is discouraging to learn that years of research will probably be necessary to give the world information as to the best means of combating this potential plague. Another epidemic would find the medical profession quite as impotent to deal with it as in 1918, according to Dr. Vaughan. Its causative agent is unknown. A vast amount of bacteriological work has been done on the subject but medical science cannot come to any definite conclusions concerning the agent that really produces plain unadulterated influenza. The complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia that frequently follow have rendered isolation of the organism causing primary influenza particularly difficult. Various vaccines in use as a safeguard have met with nearly as much failure as success.

The best preventive measure, impractical as it sounds, when influenza assumes any very serious proportions, is to keep in the best physical condition possible, and to stay away from crowds. In other words the best way not to get it is to avoid it.

EVOLUTION EVIDENCE HIDDEN IN HUMAN VEINS

Hidden away in the interior of man's veins are indications that his ancestors once walked in a stooping position, according to Dr. C. W. Stiles of the U. S. Public Health Service.

In the veins of human beings, as well as of the lower animals, Dr. Stiles stated, there are numerous little check-valves, that relieve the back-pressure of the blood and prevent it from flowing the wrong way. In all cases in animals, these valves are found in veins where the blood commonly flows "uphill" toward the heart, as in the veins of the legs and arms. In animals the blood must flow "uphill" also in the veins that lie beneath the ribs, since the animals carry the trunk of the body horizontally and the ribs therefore hang vertically. But in the veins that run horizontally, notably the great trunk vein that runs along beneath the backbone, no valves are needed to prevent back pressure, and none are found in this position.

In man, however, the trunk is carried vertically, so that the relative positions of the veins are exactly opposite to those in the animals, the rib-veins being horizontal instead of vertical and the great vein of the back being vertical instead of horizontal. Yet the valves in human veins follow the same pattern as do the valves in animal veins. They are found in the rib veins where they are not needed and are absent from the great dorsal vein where they would be really useful. This is understandable on a theory of ancestral survivals in man, Dr. Stiles pointed out, but is completely contrary to a special-creation theory which assumes that the body of man is perfectly adapted for his present mode of life and made without any use less parts or any mistakes.
