

He thought that perhaps the best solution of the matter would be to present his library to Great Britain and let it be housed in London.

This statement seemed almost a challenge. Several of the men present were stirred to the depths of their being. Among them was Prof. Edward Capps of Princeton, who had been at the head of the American Red Cross in Greece during the War, and later U. S. Minister there, and who also was chairman of the managing committee of the School of Classical Studies at Athens. This seemed to be the chance to further a splendid enterprise under American auspices. The entire matter was presented at the earliest possible moment to the President and Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. These wise and patriotic gentlemen sensed immediately the significance of the opportunity and appropriated the money necessary to build a marble library worthy of the collection of books which M. Gennadius was ready to bestow. It was a direct answer to his fervent hope, which was to see his books in his native land, worthily housed, and assured of an efficient and safe administration.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### PLANTS LIVE FOR MONTHS IN SEALED GLASS BULBS

An array of vegetable Robinson Crusoes, small living plants, each cut completely off from the outside world by being hermetically sealed in an old electric light bulb, is now on display at the building of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council in Washington. Though they have been shut up in their glass prisons for several months, receiving nothing from outside except sunlight and warmth, they thrive and grow, using the same supplies of water and air over and over again.

The system of growing plants in sealed bulbs was invented by Raymond H. Wallace, a young graduate student in the department of botany at Columbia University. It was designed as a demonstration of the ability of green plants to live completely independently, an ability not shared by animals.

The plants, which include several ferns and fern-allies, a small sensitive-plant and a seedling evergreen, are so mounted in the spoonful of soil that is allowed them that they receive a constant but no excessive supply of water from beneath. As water evaporates from their leaves, it is condensed on the walls of the glass bulb and runs down, to be used over again.

The original supply of air imprisoned in the bulb is also used repeatedly, in a slightly more complex cycle. Plants make a double use of air. They take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide, just as animals do though it was formerly taught that they performed only the reverse process. They do perform a reverse process, taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen. That, however, is not a part of their breathing but a part of the food-making process, wherein by the aid of sunlight they build the carbon and part of the oxygen of the carbon dioxide into starch and sugar, releasing the remainder of the oxygen into the air. Because plants play this double role, Mr. Wallace's green hermits can keep up the game of life indefinitely.

Since they build the carbon dioxide into food, the plants would naturally stop growing when the small original supply of this gas in the sealed up air was exhausted

Here the green plants receive aid from a host of unseen fellow-prisoners in their bulbs - the bacteria in the soil. These work only one way, eating up the decaying plant material around them with the aid of oxygen from the air, and returning carbon dioxide, which the green plants capture again and once more feed into the unbroken circle of vegetative life.

#### ANCIENT HEBREWS A MIXED RACE

The Hittites, against whose tribes the Children of Israel warred for the conquest of Palestine, were probably descendants of the same ancestors with the Hebrews according to Dr. George A. Barton of the University of Pennsylvania, who addressed the recent annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society. A branch of the original Hittite stock, a people with high cheekbones and prominent noses, mingled with a Semite foundation to produce the tribe who later became the Chosen People, late evidence indicates.

The riddles of origin and language of the Hittites, long the despair of archeologists, are now rapidly being untangled, Dr. Barton stated.

"Until about forty years ago the Hittites were believed to have been simply a small Palestinian clan like the Hivites and Jebusites;" he said. "Then it was recognized that the Khatti of Assyrian inscriptions and the Kheta of Egyptian inscriptions were Hittites, that certain pictures on rocks in Asia Minor portrayed Hittites, and that certain curious hieroglyphic inscriptions accompanying these were Hittite."

"Two generations of scholars have sought in vain to read this writing. In 1906 the late Professor Winckler discovered in the ruins of a Hittite Palace at Beghazkoi an archive of 2500 or more fragments of tablets, representing between 500 and 1000 tablets written in the Babylonian Cuneiform script, most of which were in the Hittite language. Because Winckler was soon attacked by a lingering illness from which he died, these tablets did not begin to be published until within the last ten years. Now, by the combined efforts of several scholars the language in which the tablets are written is being rapidly mastered and their contents given to the world.

"The majority of the texts are in what is popularly called Hittite, but which the tablets call Kanish. Counting Sumerian and Akkadian, the language of Babylonia, seven other dialects are represented in the collection. Kanish is a language Indo-European in its structure, but largely non-Indo-European in its vocabulary. The other dialects are all non-Indo-European. What the tablets call Hittite (scholars call it Proto-Hittite to distinguish it from Kanish) is a non-Indo-European language. These non-Indo-European languages are apparently related to Elamite and to dialects which will survive in the Caucasus.

"Probably hieroglyphic Hittite, which is still undeciphered, contains material in these non-Indo European languages. In Mesopotamia Aryans mingled with this early population and gave them such Aryan deities as Mitra, Varuna, Indra, and Nashatya, but were not able to plant among them an Indo-European speech. In Asia Minor, they imposed an Indo-European language (Kanish or later Hittite), but apparently did not plant the worship of Indo-European deities.