

EXCAVATION OF PREHISTORIC AMERICAN CITY TO BE CONCLUDED

A last attempt to excavate and study the ruins of Pueblo Bonito, in New Mexico, will be made this summer by an expedition of the National Geographic Society, headed by Neil M. Judd, of the National Museum. The expedition, which has been working at this prehistoric American metropolis for the past five summers, set out for Pueblo Bonito about the fifteenth of this month.

Pueblo Bonito - "the city beautiful" - is the literal meaning of the Spanish words - was a huge four story apartment house containing at least 800 rooms, and was one of the most important centers of civilization in this country at some distant time before the coming of Columbus. Scientists are still hoping to find evidence to reveal the dates at which the ancient civilization flourished.

"The expedition does not hope to complete all the work that might be done at this archeological site," said Mr. Judd. "We are simply bringing the excavations to a close, though many desirable lines of investigation stretch out from these ruins, leading even into Mexico. These prehistoric Indians were trading with Mexico and the Pacific coast before horses or any beasts of burden were known in this country."

The expedition is trying to make a ground plan of the old city that first occupied the Pueblo Bonito site, and over which the later city was built, Mr. Judd stated. Fragments of the walls of the older rooms are found in some cases as much as 12 feet below floors of the later construction.

Pueblo Bonito is part of the Chaco Canyon National Monument. Although it is 100 miles from the nearest town and reached mainly over trails in the open plains, an increasing number of visitors is attracted to it each year, Mr. Judd has found.

"This year will see 500 or more visitors," he prophesied. "And after this year, when work on the site is stopped and the 11 members of the expedition and 75 or 100 Indian workers at the ruins are no longer drawing on the water supply conditions will be more suitable for tourists and undoubtedly there will be many visitors."

MORE SPEED FOR TYPISTS IS FRENCH AIM

That the flying fingers of the typist might get more speed out of a machine with less fatigue of nerves and muscles is the conviction of French psychologists who are studying ways of improving the typewriter keyboard. The present "universal" arrangement of letters on the keyboard and the custom of using all ten fingers to pound the keys are not approved by these French students of applied science.

How they are setting out for typewriter perfection is reported by J. M. Lahy, director of the psychological laboratory in the University of France, in a recent issue of "Industrial Psychology".

In the present standard keyboard, letters are grouped so that the ones most used are located where they are supposed to be easiest to reach, Prof. Lahy says. But the psychologists employed by a French typewriter company have for the past year

been studying typewriters hooked up to smoked drums, so that the speed of the typist in hitting the keys and the interval between hitting each two keys could be recorded permanently on smoked paper.

Statistical tables resulting from this work show that there is ordinarily a much shorter time interval between striking successive letters when they are on opposite sides of the keyboard, and consequently are hit with alternate hands. The two hands vary in this respect, however. The French investigators have found that the fingers of the right hand are more agile than those of the left, in the average operator. This means that whenever possible a letter hit by the left hand should alternate with one hit by the right.

French methods of typing are being developed as a result of the researches.

"The best methods are not to be obtained by imposing the same method on all typists," the French psychologist declares. "Each typist adapts a method to his own needs according to his muscular peculiarities."

The usual method of typing taught, in which all ten fingers are used, rests upon an erroneous comparison of the finger movements of the typist with those of the pianist, he says.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF IODINE THOUGHT UNSAFE

Is the consumption of iodized salt safe for the general public? According to such authority as Dr. Victor C. Vaughan of the National Research Council and Dr. C. L. Hartsock of the Medical Division of the Cleveland Clinic, it is not.

Dr. Hartsock has reported to the American Medical Association that the continuous administration of iodine over a long period of time should never be prescribed for adults. There are many different sorts of thyroid disturbances, according to Dr. Hartsock, and even small amounts of iodine are likely to set up irritation in certain types that are exceedingly dangerous.

"Iodine administered in small quantities, periodically to children", he says "under the age of puberty is a very efficient preventive of simple goiter. Community administration of iodine disregards physiologic facts regarding the effect of iodine on the thyroid gland. The use of iodized salt should be discontinued or limited absolutely to periodic table use by children under the age of puberty."

Dr. Vaughan maintains that the flood of iodized salt on the market is already doing harm.

"It should be understood," he says, "that there are different kinds of goiter and all kinds are not prevented, or, being present, are not benefitted by medication with iodine. The wholesale use of medicine of any kind or chemicals of any kind by the people without medical supervision is fraught with danger."
