



Scale of Centimeters

SECOND SKULL OF SINANTHROPUS

To provide "most valuable clue yet unearthed for solving the mystery of early man"

ANTHROPOLOGY

Second "Peiping Man" Skull Found to be That of Young Man

Noted British Anthropologist Predicts Discoveries Will Throw Flood of Light on Nature of Primitive Brain

A SECOND skull of Sinanthropus has been recovered from material taken out of the limestone caves at Choukoutien, about 40 miles from Peiping, where the original "Peking Man" skull was discovered by a young Chinese geologist, W. C. Pei, last December.

The material containing the new specimen was removed from the site last October to the Geological Survey's cenozoic research laboratory, located in the Rockefeller Foundation Hospital at Peiping, and was carefully worked over under supervision of the laboratory's honorary director, Dr. Davidson Black, who reported the discovery to the Chinese Geological Survey.

First Was Skull of Girl

In July several uncrushed fragments of bone were revealed. When chiselled out of the hard matrix and pieced together these were found to represent the greater part of the vault and a portion of the base of a Sinanthropus skull which evidently belonged to a young adult male.

Dr. Black is now inclined to believe that the skull found last December was that of an adolescent girl, though he admits this is pure surmise based largely on the general shape of the forehead. The new specimen lacks the general pentagonal shape usually associated with female skulls.

According to Dr. Black, the second skull, though somewhat fragmentary, yields valuable information concerning certain parts, including the sphenoid and nasal bones, which were represented in the previous find. Compared with the latter it also presents slight but significant differences in shape and size which Dr. Black thinks may possibly be due to a difference in sex.

While the proportions of the two skulls are in general the same, there are some marked variations. In the new specimen, for instance, the frontal bulges are not so prominent nor is the average thickness of the skull so great as in the first.

A complete comparison of the two skulls will be made when the prepara-

tion of the first specimen has been completed. This will probably take a couple of months, Dr. Black indicated.

Just where the Peking man fits into the scale of human evolution is not yet entirely certain, so perhaps the second specimen will help answer this question. It is generally agreed that he lived considerably after the Java ape-man, *Pithecanthropus erectus*, who probably walked the earth some half million years ago. Dr. Black, who first described the Chinese specimen, has expressed the opinion that it is older than the Neanderthal man, whose age is estimated at about 40,000 years. Dr. Hrdlicka, of the Smithsonian Institution, however, last spring announced his opinion that the Peking skull was very similar to the Neanderthal specimens, so that it would be about the same age.

Discoveries Unique

These fossils of Sinanthropus will provide the most valuable clue yet unearthed for solving the riddle of early man, Prof. G. Elliot Smith, noted British anthropologist, predicted last week in a lecture before the Chinese Geological Society. Prof. Smith is in Peiping at the invitation of the Chinese Government for the purpose of studying the Sinanthropus specimens.

Although the report on the cast of the braincase obtained from the second skull is not complete, Prof. Smith described the discoveries as unique in the whole history of anthropology and predicted that the evidence would throw a flood of light on the nature of the primitive brain.

What Prof. Smith's exact conclusions will be are eagerly awaited by the scientific world due to the controversy that is raging over the birthplace of mankind.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1930

MEDICINE

Ultra-Short Radio Waves Kill Poison of Diphtheria

ULTRA-RADIO waves, shorter than those commonly used to send messages, are able to weaken materially the potent poison elaborated by the diphtheria bacillus, Drs. Ralph R. Mellon, Waclaw T. Szymanowski and Robert Alan Hicks of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Institute of Pathology here have reported to *Science*.

The wave length used was 1.9 meters. The effect of temperature was carefully ruled out by using special cooling devices and by careful control tests. The strength of the poison, or toxin as it is