

In Science Fields

PALEONTOLOGY

Australian Family Tree Traced to Africa

A RELATIONSHIP can now be traced between living Australian natives and the heavy-jawed, bull-necked men who lived in Africa thousands of years ago, as represented by the fossil remains found in Rhodesia, is the theory advanced by Dr. Eugene Du Bois. Australian natives, the world's most primitive people alive, have long puzzled science. They now appear to be a hang-over from an ancient pattern of man.

The recent discovery of fossil remains at Ngandong, Java, supplies a missing piece in the Australian puzzle, as Dr. Du Bois sees it. Dr. Du Bois gained fame in scientific circles when he was a Dutch colonial army surgeon in Java, back in 1891, and found in a river bed the remains of the famous *Pithecanthropus erectus*, the so-called ape-man of Java.

Reporting conclusions to the British scientific journal *Nature*, Dr. Du Bois points out significant resemblances and relationships between a group of skeletal remains of ancient man. He compares the new Javanese skull from Ngandong, another Javanese skull known as the Wadjak skull which Dr. Du Bois himself found in Java in 1890, the Rhodesian skull found in Africa in 1921, and the Talgai skull of a youth found in Queensland, Australia. Dr. Du Bois concludes that the skulls show a relationship, though not necessarily in a direct line, between old Rhodesian man and the modern Australian.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

People Unlike Eskimos Lived in Alaskan Village

DIGGING into the lowest depths of an Eskimo village deposit in Alaska, Dr. Ales Hrdlicka of the U. S. National Museum has made the surprising discovery of the remains of a people different from the Eskimos.

These older inhabitants of the village were neither Eskimos nor Aleuts, Dr. Hrdlicka writes in a communication to

the Museum in Washington, D. C. They resembled very closely the type of the California Indians.

The site where Dr. Hrdlicka is excavating is at Larsen's Bay, Kodiak Island, off southern Alaska.

Commenting on the unusual condition in this Alaskan village where Indians gave place to Eskimos long ago, Dr. Hrdlicka writes: "This is, so far as I know, the first case on this continent where two different peoples are actually found in the same deposit."

The anthropologist found some of the old Indian burials under nine feet of deposits, and even in the old original ground which underlies the whole accumulation of village debris. Some of these early burials had been crushed by the weight of debris over them, but some are in better condition. Even when a specimen is crushed, enough remains usually to show the type, Dr. Hrdlicka states.

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FORESTRY

Living Trees Picture Ancient American Forests

MILLIONS of years ago California and Oregon were forested with trees unlike those now found there. A Carnegie Institution of Washington expedition has found on the slopes of the Venezuelan Andes the living close relative of ancient trees of western America.

Prof. Ralph W. Chaney of the University of California and Dr. Erling Dorf of Princeton University by traveling into South and Central America were able to see a picture of what the ancient forests of America's west coast must have looked like millions of years ago before there were human eyes to see them.

Their discovery upholds the theory that forests that once existed in North America were pushed south as the climate became increasingly cold and dry.

Leaf-prints of the ancient west coast trees are found as fossils in the rocks of today.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Malaria Cases Traced To Drug Addict's Syringe

FIVE CASES of malaria in San Francisco were due to infection by the syringe of a narcotic drug addict who also had malaria, in the opinion of Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, who reported the unusual occurrence to the American Medical Association.

"Nothing like this in my experience has ever occurred before," Dr. Geiger declared.

Ordinarily malaria is transmitted by the bite of a certain species of mosquito in whose body the malaria germ passes one phase of its life cycle. However, malaria may be transmitted directly by injecting blood of malaria patients into the veins or muscles of another person. This is the method followed in the malaria treatment of paresis.

Two of the patients developed malaria on the same day, February 1. In Dr. Geiger's opinion one of these infected the others by passing around his syringe for morphine injections without first cleaning and sterilizing it. That such passing around of a common syringe is customary among addicts was confirmed by the clerk of a hotel where one of the men lived. Three of the hotels where they were known to have lived were investigated for evidences of mosquitoes, which transmit malaria, and mosquito breeding places, but none was found.

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SEISMOLOGY

Mexico is Visited by Another Earthquake

ONE MORE earthquake was added to the unusual series of recent seismic shocks that have occurred in Mexico in the last few months when a moderate quake centered in the Gulf of California Thursday (July 7) at 11:16 a. m., E. S. T. Instruments in American seismological observatories at Georgetown University, St. Louis University, Fordham University, University of California, Pasadena Seismological Laboratory and the Dominion Observatory at Victoria, B. C., were affected. From records wired to Science Service, the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey determined the exact location at 27.6 degrees north latitude and 112.5 degrees west longitude.

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