

ilar age that stood on ground regularly burned over.

Fire appears also to be beneficial to the soil itself, and to the grass that grows among the trees, and thus to the cattle that eat the grass. Unburned areas, to be sure, did have soil somewhat more porous than that in burned areas; but this advantage was offset by the better chemical condition of the burned-over soil. Burned-over soil produced twice as much green weight of vegetation, which was also of better nutritive quality than the plants from unburned areas. And cattle grazed in burned-over woods gained more weight and were sleeker-looking than comparison herds kept in fire-free woods.

However, lest Southern stockmen crow too easily over the "perfessers," it was noted that the common practice of burning the woods every spring is a bit too much of a good thing. Much less frequent use of fire is calculated to bring better results, in all probability. Tests of just how often the red demon can be invoked with benefit rather than harm are now in prospect.

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## ARCHAEOLOGY

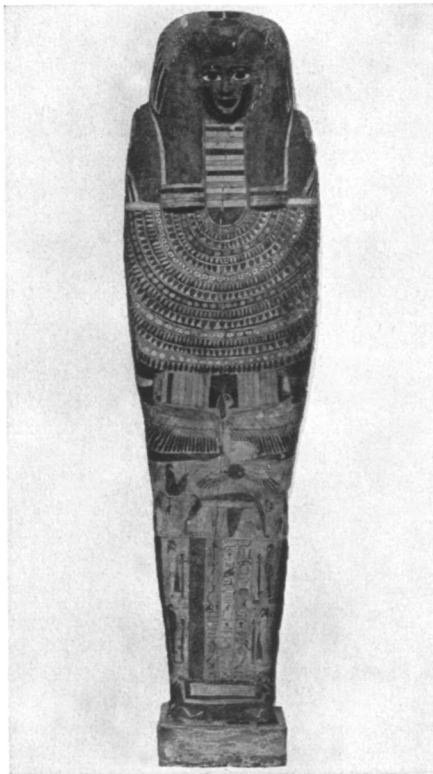
## Egyptians Planned Their Own Funerals and Mummies

**A**N EGYPTIAN of the olden times took such interest in his own funeral that he conferred with undertakers about the trappings, plenty of time in advance.

If he should be suddenly taken off without planning the funeral, there was quite a risk that his mummy mask would not be a good likeness. And the sacred formula written on his coffin might not be aptly chosen for insuring greatest benefits after death. Relatives were not so critical of these matters.

Results of this old concern over funerals are vividly shown in a "mummy room," at the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Many burial relics are exhibited for the first time since they were discovered by various archaeological exhibitions. The mummy of "So-and-So" is one exhibit which shows that undertakers were sometimes careless and ignorant, in times when education was at low ebb.

About 2200 B.C., an Egyptian funeral called for a "soul-house." These curious objects made of pottery resemble small doll houses, with rooms and pillared porches. Inside, the soul of the



**MUMMY OF "SO-AND-SO"**

*An Egyptian undertaker of small learning scrawled on this coffin, in the blank spaces, the prayers ordered by the customer. The name of the coffin owner quite stumped him, so he wrote "So-and-So."*

dead was expected to seek shelter, while consuming food offerings.

A feature of funeral equipment in the Graeco-Roman period was a mummy-label. The Museum has a collection of these wooden labels, bearing the names of departed people of Egypt. Like some modern method of tagging babies in a hospital, the ancients of this period had tags tied to a mummy to identify it before placing it in the coffin.

Mummy portraits were a style of the Roman period in Egypt. These are almost the only examples of Roman painting in wax that have survived the ages. The wax portrait adorned the house of an individual during his lifetime, and after death the portrait was fastened over his face or put on the coffin, replacing carved wooden mummy masks of earlier times.

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Zuni Indian women of the Southwest are so used to balancing large pottery jars on their heads that some can even run without touching the jar with the hands.

## ENTOMOLOGY

## Winter in Midwest Leaves Chinch Bugs Ready For Ill

**W**EATHER conditions so far this winter have not been severe enough to discourage the widespread menace of the chinch bug, the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, informed Science Service. During the latter part of January and the first days of February there was an almost continuous sheet of ice over Iowa, where the pest is expected to be at its worst next summer, but this probably did not have much effect on the hibernating insects, snug in their winter quarters among the roadside grasses. Unless beating rains come during the migrating period, in late spring and early summer, chinch bugs will be very bad over eastern Kansas, the northern half of Missouri and practically the whole of Illinois, as well as less extensively in several other states.

Grasshopper eggs also are numerous, with their greatest concentration in the western part of the wheat belt, farther west than the chinch bug area. They also are expected to be troublesome, though perhaps not so much so as they have been during the past two or three years. The Bureau of Entomology has some funds left over from last summer's campaign, and there are supplies for poison bait still in the field stations. These will be expended against the 'hoppers during the coming summer.

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