

"Father Divine" is a Negro preacher who has obtained an enormous following during the past three or four years in New York City. His followers are chiefly Negroes, but a few white people are also numbered among his flock.

The followers believe that Father Divine is God. At the meetings, the fervor of the audience is worked up to the point of ecstasy.

Most of those taken to Bellevue Hospi-

tal were persons subject to moods of extreme excitement followed by periods of deep depression, but in the whole group practically every type of mental disease was found, the physicians stated. In each case the individual was affected by the teachings of Father Divine.

Apparently any form of mental disease may be precipitated by taking part in these religious meetings.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Palace of Bible Stories Believed Located In Egypt

THE PALACES of Pharaoh in Egypt where the Bible stories of Joseph and Moses were staged are believed located at last.

Announcing its study of decorated tiles from an Egyptian palace at el Kantir, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, states "in all probability el Kantir is the city Raamses of the tradition of the oppression."

"In fact," says H. E. Winlock, director of the museum, "there is ample reason to believe that these tiles come from the walls of the very palaces which—traditionally at least—were the scenes of the stories in the latter part of Genesis and the first chapters of Exodus."

Several lines of evidence point to this site as Raamses, mentioned in the Bible passage: "And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pythom and Raamses . . . And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor: and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick."

Occupied For 200 Years

Bricks and tiles from the palaces of el Kantir bear names of Egyptian kings—Sethy I, Ramesses II, Mer-en-Ptah and others of the fourteenth to the twelfth centuries B.C. who reigned during the period generally ascribed to the Bible Egyptian record. The palaces were thus occupied throughout two centuries, during which time, Mr. Winlock says, there is excellent reason to believe they were the northern residence of Egyptian kings.

Mr. Winlock further explains that el Kantir is geographically placed to fit with the Bible account. It is just beyond the confines of the "land of Goshen" where Joseph settled his brethren to have them

near him while he dwelt at court. The Israelites were still dwelling in Goshen when a Pharaoh who "knew not Joseph" set them to labor for him under hard taskmasters. It may have been palaces at el Kantir which the Israelites were building when the famous command went forth to give the workers no straw for brickmaking.

Pharaohs who figured in the Bible narratives of Egypt and the dates of the events have never been conclusively identified.

Scenery From Historic Stage

Regarding historic details in the Bible account of Joseph and Moses, Mr. Winlock says:

"The accuracy of that tradition is not here in question. What is of interest to us is that its originators knew of the palaces of el Kantir and chose them as the stage for the story of Joseph and the story of Moses and that from this stage we have retrieved a few bits of colorful scenery."

The tiles, which provided the first clue to the location of the palaces, came to the Museum's attention as early as 1921, when antiquity dealers offered them in Egypt, vaguely describing their place of origin. The Cairo Museum found the place, and excavated there. Among the hundreds of fragments of decorated tile, unearthed or bought by museums from time to time, the names of the kings who lived in the period have finally been rediscovered.

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Georgia has made the pine its official state tree, and the brown thrasher its state bird.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

Plants Become Poisonous By Absorbing Selenium

PLANTS are chemically tricked into becoming poisonous to livestock in some parts of the West because a toxic element in the soil, selenium, is chemically a very near relative to the beneficial and necessary element sulphur. So close is their kinship that the absorbing mechanism of the plants cannot tell them apart, and so takes in the bad with the good. The remedy for this situation is to add so much sulphur to the seleniferous soils that the indiscriminating plants will get a great deal more of it than they do of the selenium.

This, in brief summary, is the plant-physiological picture arrived at by Dr. Annie M. Hurd Karrer, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The problem of "selenized" plants is one of the most serious which scientists of the Department have been called upon to solve in recent years. Some time ago, reports began to come in of livestock afflicted with a crippling and finally fatal disease, resulting from eating grain grown in certain parts of the northern Great Plains. The trouble was finally traced to grains grown on soils of one particular geologic type, often low in sulphur but unusually high in the less familiar element selenium.

Laboratory and field plot experiments at the Department of Agriculture securely fastened the blame on the selenium. Then it was found that the poisonous effects on the plants, and through them on animals, could be almost completely counteracted by adding sulphur compounds to the soil. The amounts of selenium taken up by the plants diminished in proportion to the amounts of sulphur added, and this led to the theory that the two "taste alike" to plants, and are absorbed in accordance with their relative availability in the soil.

When the selenium-poisoning problem first presented itself it caused a good deal of concern, for the afflicted areas were in the midst of a region where commercial grain is produced in some quantity. The practical importance of the problem has been diminished at least for the present, by the effects of grasshoppers and drought on the agriculture of the region. However, if there is an agricultural come-back in that part of the country, the information that has been obtained should help in meeting problems that may arise.

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