

ARCHAEOLOGY

**Scientist Hurt by Camel;
Sinai Digging Goes On**

INJURED while journeying by camel caravan to excavate the ancient Egyptian temple of Hathor, in the Sinai Peninsula, Prof. Kirsopp Lake of a Harvard University Expedition is recovering in a hospital at Jerusalem.

News of the accident, received at Harvard University, reports Prof. Lake received internal injuries when bumped by a camel, but continued the journey, and was carried by litter to the top of desolate Mount Serabit el Khadim where the Egyptian temple is located. After supervising the start of excavation at the ruins, his condition became worse and he was rushed to the hospital.

Excavation of the temple is being continued by his associates, and a well preserved stone tablet bearing four vertical columns of legible Sinaitic script, very early alphabetic writing, has been found. In an old Egyptian mine close to the temple of the Egyptian goddess, was found another stone tablet, an animal head in stone, and several graffiti or scribbings, which are pronounced important by archaeologists.

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PSYCHIATRY

**"Bad" Girls Reclaimed by
Rehearsals for Real Life**

REHEARSALS for real life that teach dramatic techniques proved successful by one of today's great dramatic actresses, are about to be used in reclaiming for everyday useful living some of the "bad" or delinquent girls caught in civilization's undertow.

Psychiatrists listened eagerly to Dr. Jacob L. Moreno and Helen Jennings of the New York Training School for Girls when they told of their new experiments.

"Spontaneity training" is what this new sort of dramatic school for real living is called.

It began in Vienna not so long ago. Dr. Moreno gave a spontaneity course there for normal children. A little girl was among the pupils. She is now famous as an actress. Hers is a name that all would today recognize if Dr. Moreno should choose to subdue his modesty and announce it.

In teaching spontaneity, the child is taught to warm up to each new person and each new situation. The pupil is taught to use all her emotional and intel-

lectual powers in meeting and handling the pleasures and difficulties of existence. The perfunctory routine way of doing things is banned. Creative ability is cherished and developed.

Present methods of child training tend to stifle this creative ability, Dr. Moreno believes.

Spontaneity training starts with the child completely relaxed, physically and mentally. Then she is given some simple material to work with, perhaps a piece of modelling clay. She is encouraged to handle this according to her own unguided, undirected ideas. Some children are slow to warm up to the new situation, others do it too quickly, Dr. Moreno finds.

Dr. Moreno has also developed spontaneity tests by which it is possible to discover for what life work the child is best suited.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

**Assyrian Stone Slab
In Baltimore Deciphered**

IF ASSYRIAN King Sennacherib, dead these 2,600 years, could have looked in on the American Oriental Society, meeting recently, his royal ego would have been delighted.

One of his royal progress reports, written on good sturdy stone, has turned up in Baltimore, and is receiving scholarly appreciation as a "new version of Sennacherib's campaigns."

Prof. Julius Lewy, of the Jewish Theological Seminary, told of reading the royal inscription at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, and of his keen interest on finding it widely divergent from others telling about this famous Assyrian conqueror-king.

The stone, covered with cuneiform writing on both sides, was expressly made for the purpose of building it into the city wall of Samarra, Prof. Lewy explained. Besides telling about battles won, cities burned and plundered, and enemies vanquished, Sennacherib gave space on the stone to telling what he was doing for the city of Samarra. He had noted the poor condition of this old city, and had ordered improvements. The city was enlarged and a new wall built. Gardens and forests, fruit and wine plantations were to be made around it.

New details of some of Sennacherib's historic campaigns are read for the first time in this version of his career. The conditions of his coming to the throne of Assyria are also better understood from the document.

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IN SCIENCE

PSYCHOLOGY

**Animals Can Learn Acts
Without Doing Them**

CONSTANT repetition of an act may be the common way to teach the family animal pet to lie down, sit up, turn over or shake his leg, but animals can learn at least to a limited extent without any actual performance.

Learning to do and doing are two separate operations and require different nervous mechanisms, it was demonstrated before the Midwestern Psychological Association by Dr. Paul H. Settlage of the University of Wisconsin.

The drug sodium amytal—popularly known as a "truth serum"—was used on cats to prove this curious division of mental labor.

When given just the right amount of "truth serum," the cats were then given a mild electric shock and heard a bell ring at the same time. At each shock they would flex their legs but they never did so when the bell alone sounded.

Yet all the while they were learning to associate the bell's sound with the shock, for after the effects of the "truth serum" wore off they flexed their legs when only the bell sounded. The drug prevented them from flexing their legs while they were under its influence but did not prevent them from learning.

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AGRICULTURE

**Soviet Plant Breeders
Make Fertile Hybrid Wheat**

AFERTILE hybrid form of wheat has been obtained by crossing ordinary wheat with spelt, by Prof. D. Kostoff of the Institute of Genetics, Academy of Science of the U. S. S. R. Spelt is a plant related to wheat but belonging to a different species, and all hybrids hitherto made have been sterile.

The new hybrid is considered promising from the breeder's viewpoint, since spelt is resistant to a number of plant diseases to which wheat is susceptible. An effort will now be made to transfer these resistant properties by further crossing with hard and soft wheat varieties.

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E FIELDS

PSYCHIATRY

First Psychoanalyst Was Hippocrates, Not Freud

FREUD, distinguished Viennese professor who started the modern use of psychoanalysis as a specific treatment for disease, was not the first to delve into a patient's past and analyze his dreams in order to cure his illness.

Four centuries before Christ, the Greek physician Hippocrates, Father of Medicine, apparently practiced psychoanalysis. Dr. A. A. Brill, of New York City, told members of the American Psychiatric Association.

By psychoanalytic methods Hippocrates cured a royal patient who was suffering from nervous and mental disease after another physician had failed to cure the patient through diet and medications, Dr. Brill related.

Prof. Freud himself, Dr. Brill said, called attention to the fact that a number of his ideas were either anticipated by others or discovered independently of him. This is particularly true of his conceptions of the dream. But the most remarkable thing, Dr. Brill pointed out, is the early use of dream analysis by Hippocrates.

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PALEONTOLOGY

Patagonia's "Wild West" Yields Unknown Fossils

BONES of an extinct flesh-eating animal related to the kangaroo but much bigger than a grizzly bear, fossil frogs, remains of a totally new kind of fossil browsing animal five feet high, are among the scientific trophies brought back from South America to the American Museum of Natural History, by Dr. George Gaylord Simpson, associate curator of vertebrate paleontology.

Dr. Simpson and his associates made actual a semi-legendary "place of bones" deep in the interior of Argentina's "Wild South," Patagonia, as the result of a chance sight of a fossil jawbone in a bank in Buenos Aires. They went through adventures of an almost Marco Polo type, including a brief sojourn at the ranch of

a veritable ogre of a bushy-eyebrowed killer known as the Terrible Turk, and passage through a land where the natives valued money at nothing, but would sell you anything you wanted for an empty tin can.

Finally, after disappointing searchings in the region to which they had been directed, they found, in a fissure-sided hill, a tremendous deposit of bones, believed to be one of the richest "fossil mines" ever discovered. The deposit appears to be the silted-up bottom of an ancient lake that formed in the crater of an extinct volcano. Apparently animals coming down to drink were overcome and killed by poisonous fumes from cracks in the earth, which were the dying gasps of the old volcano itself.

The bones were so thick, where they had been weathered out in the course of ages, that they cluttered the ground, and the explorers stumbled over them.

The big, hitherto unknown herbivorous animal they found has been named *Scarrittia*, in compliment of H. S. Scarritt, sponsor of the expedition.

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MARINE ENGINEERING

Yankee's New Welded Mast Saves in Air Resistance

See Front Cover

RETURNING the recent visit of the British yacht *Endeavour* which challenged for the America's Cup last year, the American yacht *Yankee*, shown on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, is now in England for a series of races with British sloops in her J class.

The *Yankee's* newest contribution to yachting is her 165 foot all-welded nickel steel mast, first of its kind ever placed aboard such a large yacht, according to the Lincoln Electric Co.

The mast is 18 inches in diameter at the bottom and 7 inches at the top. Its thickness at the base is 3/16 of an inch and 1/8 inch at the peak. It weighs 5,700 pounds as compared with the 6,200 pound weight of the wooden mast it replaces.

More than that, the new steel mast saves 320 square feet in windage—the yachtsman's term for air resistance which slows up a boat. The saving is equivalent to the sail area of a racing sloop 42 feet long.

During the summer the *Yankee* will meet the *Endeavour*, *Shamrock V* and the King's own veteran cutter *Britannia*.

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PSYCHIATRY

Rascals and Sinners Not The Ones Who Go Crazy

"WHOLE-HEARTED rascals and hearty sinners" rarely develop mental disease. The great bulk of patients in hospitals for mental and nervous disorders are the over-conscientious persons with high ideals and standards both of conduct and of living conditions. These observations were made by Dr. John C. Whitehorn, of McLean Hospital, Waverly, Mass., at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Whitehorn was discussing his approach to an understanding of personality in a group of mentally disordered patients.

He found from a study of the group two generally contrasting plans of character organization. The one he called obligative is strong on duty and obligation. The other called zestful might be said to go in chiefly for a good time. Persons who organize their characters and lives on the obligative plan see life in terms of duties and ideals, right and wrong, finicky tastes and esthetic or conventional standards.

The ones organized on the zestful plan look at life in a more hearty, practical and genial way. Persons living on the obligative plan are the ones making up the bulk of patients in hospitals for mental disease.

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CHEMISTRY

Vanishing Cream Protects Workers' Hands from Dirt

NEWEST aid for the housewife is an "invisible" glove of vanishing cream, protecting the hands from dirt, paint or grease, which has been developed by the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

Known as "Pro-Tek," the new product is not a soap but a protecting cream claimed to be entirely harmless and non-irritating.

When rubbed on the hands it dries and apparently disappears leaving them dry and without a greasy feeling. It is now being used by printers, auto mechanics, coal handlers and others who have "dirty" jobs. Around the home housewives find it useful in protecting the hands from the "messy" odd paint jobs, gardening, tending the furnace, and for general housework.

The invisible film is entirely soluble in water and washes off with all the dirt and grime.

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