

States of today, with the added feature of permanent darkness the whole season through. Hence the animals of the ancient Arctic must have been able to find their food even in the dark, or by moon or aurora light, as the caribou and musk-ox and polar fox do now; or else they must have dodged the problem by going into hibernation and sleeping the winter out. There was, of course, more food, as the presence of such enormous gross feeders as woolly mammoth and hairy rhinoceros and giant bison have testified with their bones.

The discovery of a land-living dinosaur in the Arctic would be a somewhat embarrassing thing for Dean Berry's hypothesis. Fossils of sea dinosaurs, like Ichthyosaurus, have been found in the far north; but these need not count. They lived in the water, and probably moved about the world as freely as whales do now. But a terrestrial dinosaur—at least one of any size—would indicate either a fairly high year-round temperature or else some adaptation to

cold weather not possessed by any existing reptile or other cold-blooded animal. While warm-blooded creatures can brave the winter, the cold-blooded beasts must get out of the way. Land-living reptiles, and many aquatic ones as well, burrow into the ground or mud when autumn chill warns them, and emerge when the sun warms the earth in spring.

But a Diplodocus was too big to be a successful burrower—to twist Falstaff a bit, he would have required a mountain for his mummy-case. It is just possible that he might have wallowed himself deep enough into a swamp or lake bottom, but really not very likely. However, although dinosaur bones have been found pretty well up in Canada, and abundantly in Mongolia, none are on record yet from the lands of the long dark, so Dean Berry's idea is still safe from being tramped on by their ponderous feet.

This article was edited from manuscript prepared by Science Service for use in illustrated newspaper magazines. Copyright, 1936, by EveryWeek Magazine and Science Service.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Scientists are not yet sure just what the function of this part of the brain is, although it is being extensively investigated at present.

In the case Dr. Ackerly reported, discovery of the absence of this brain tissue resulted in clearing of the criminal charges against the patient, who has since been put under proper supervision to protect himself as well as the community.

"Without the encephalogram procedure, injustice to both parents and patient would have continued," Dr. Ackerly reported.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

GENERAL SCIENCE

"Who Owns Our Science?" Writer Wants to Know

THE GREATEST and deadliest of plagues is poverty, the lack of wherewithal with which to buy what people are collectively willing and able to produce.

Dr. Paul de Kruif, he of "Microbe Hunters" and "Hunger Fighters," in his new book probes with literary lance this cancer of money lack, satirically titling it with a query about little, helpless children: "Why Keep Them Alive?" (Harcourt, Brace).

Dr. de Kruif tells tales of medical advances made ineffective by money lack. There was Joan, who died of rheumatic heart disease, an illness that passes by well-fed children. Little Joan whose heart might not have beat itself out if she had had an economic chance.

Joan's story stirred Dr. de Kruif to ask, how this infamy in a land of enormous wealth could continue? This suggestion lost him a friend, grown rich from applying science to human use.

So Dr. de Kruif formulates his new understanding in fighting, vibrant words: "I knew that the clever men who monopolized the common inheritance of science would never share it, fundamentally. I knew that their greed, based upon fear, made them indifferent to a heartbroken child.

"I understood that the question today, that will finally set friend against friend, brother against brother, is this one—who owns our science?"

"I saw that once the plain people, the mass, understand the whole truth of the story of children like our Joan, once they get it clear in their heads what it is that limits the food, the clothes, the shelter, the science that

PSYCHIATRY

Discovery of Brain Defect Clears Patient of Charges

HOW a special kind of X-ray picture, which showed an absence of part of the brain tissue in a 19-year-old boy, cleared the young patient of criminal charges was told by Dr. Spafford Ackerly of the University of Louisville School of Medicine at the meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

The patient was facing a long term sentence because of persistent automobile stealing when he was brought by his family lawyer to the psychiatrist. The patient had a record of petty stealing and misbehavior at school. He was given to "impulsive wanderings," when he would suddenly drop what he was doing and depart for distant cities,

hitch-hiking or, more often, going in a stolen automobile.

Physical and neurological examination and ordinary X-ray pictures of his head showed nothing wrong. He had a normal intelligence rating and had reached the second year of high school. The lad was a convincing talker, made a good impression and was so well-mannered that he was termed a "little Chesterfield." After one of his escapades he would be very contrite, but this feeling did not prevent another escapade.

Finally the psychiatrists decided to make an encephalogram. This is a special kind of X-ray picture. Some of the fluid within the brain and spinal cord is withdrawn and an equivalent amount of air is injected. X-ray pictures taken after this procedure show the various cavities or ventricles of the brain more clearly than plain X-rays do.

The encephalogram of this 19-year-old boy showed a defect in the front part of his brain. Operation was then performed and a "marked absence" of this part of the brain, called the prefrontal lobe tissue, was found on both left and right sides.

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