

marry, usually prefer a maid to an older woman of their own status. Unfortunately the divorcees, who are most plentiful, are to some extent biological inferiors and discards who are worthless matrimonial prospects. Their rate of remarriage is hard to calculate, but it is probable that only a minority of them ever remarry. Those who do remarry represent the more normal and desirable of the group, and the Institute's studies show that their success in a second marriage is not very much less than that of the rest of the population in first-and-only marriages. Divorcees should be scrutinized critically, therefore, but not necessarily rejected, although widowers by death rather than widowers by law, to borrow the terminology of the matrimonial bureau, are probably better 'prospects.'

Having made herself attractive and marriageable and having sought out the acquaintance of a large number of eligible men to whom she has taken a friendly attitude, the girl should pay strict at-

tention to her "technique." She should be careful to avoid the pitfall of too much aggression in the courtship or proposal, Dr. Popenoe warns.

The role of the female as seductive and alluring rather than aggressive goes back in evolution not only far beyond the human, but far beyond the mammalian stage; it is unlikely that it can be disregarded with safety at the present time.

"One of the common complaints of unhappy husbands is that their wives are too aggressive, of unhappy wives, that their husbands are not aggressive enough," Dr. Popenoe found.

"No law now prevents women from proposing, but every-day observation shows that it is not worthwhile for her to do so.

"The woman who is not clever enough to maneuver a man into a position where he will propose, is probably not clever enough to hold a man after she gets one."

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937

PALEONTOLOGY

Sea Serpent's Skull Found By California Student

A FOSSILIZED skull of a mosasaur—huge serpentine sea-reptile which lived during the upper Cretaceous geologic period, some 60,000,000 years ago, has been found near the town of Gustine, Calif., by Allan Bennison, a sophomore in the University of California. It is the first mosasaur skull to be found west of the Rockies.

The skull is about two feet long, and is six inches in width at its broadest point. It was found embedded in a sandstone formation on the side of a hill, just west of the town. It has been given to the University's museum of paleontology for study.

S. P. Welles, field laboratory assistant in the museum, has informed Science Service that the reptile was about

18 feet long, with a slender, snake-like body. Its limbs resembled paddles with which it propelled its way through the water. Its tail was somewhat fan-like in shape, and served as a scull to guide its passage. In appearance, Mr. Welles said, it was a "cross between the present day sea-lion and sea-snake."

Its habitat was the ocean. But like the whale, it had to come to the surface for air. It had large, sharp teeth and probably was a fish eater.

Paleontologists at the university are planning an expedition to the region in which the find was made, in the hope of recovering the remainder of the skeleton. It is believed this will necessitate tunneling into the side of the hill, as the skull itself was found on a steep slope.

Some two years ago, Mr. Bennison found a dinosaur in the same region, and this discovery led him to make a careful survey of the area, with the result that he uncovered his present find.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937

The Romans got their first taste of food made from rye and oats when they encountered northern Europeans.

ASTRONOMY

Supposed "Ghost" Comet Claimed To Be Real

WHEN reports were received in April of the discovery of a new comet in the southern skies by W. F. Gale, an Australian astronomer, and great observatories in Europe and America were unable to locate it, the assumption was made that it was a "ghost." It was near the brilliant planet Mars, and often reflections from such a bright object, inside the eyepiece of a telescope, cause these ghosts, which look like comets.

The comet was real after all, according to a claim in a letter from Mr. Gale to Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin, published in the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*. Mr. Gale states that he fully recognized the likelihood of its being a ghost, and made careful tests to determine its reality. The telescope, he says, never showed such ghosts before, and the comet was seen best when Mars was completely out of the field. It was observed by several others, and through other telescopes, over a period of nearly a month, during which it moved as a comet should.

As he found the comet to vary considerably in brightness, it may be that it happened to be very faint when the northern observers looked for it. Also, it was much better placed for viewing in Australia, for there it was nearly overhead, while in Europe and North America it was low in the south. After the word was circulated that it could not be found, and northern astronomers decided that it was a ghost, no further search was made.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Man Himself is Feature Of New Style World's Fair

IMPOSSIBLE as it may seem, a new style in world's fairs and expositions is being set. Industrial, territorial and colonial expansion and, more recently, scientific achievements have dominated world's fairs in the past. When the New York World's Fair opens in 1939 the new style, with emphasis on man himself, will come to full flower.

The general theme of this fair will be "Man and the World of Tomorrow." But if man is to dominate the fair generally, he will reign supreme in the building which will house exhibits displaying the latest scientific knowledge of medicine and public health.

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"Man wanders over the restless sea, the flowing water, the sight of the sky and forgets that of all wonders man himself is the most wonderful," St. Augustine wrote years ago. That saying has been taken for the theme of the Hall of Man, one of three halls in the building which may be called "A World of Health."

All the exhibits in this building will be dramatic presentations of these wonders and of current knowledge for keeping the body healthy.

Chief of the wonders of man himself is his brain, without which there could have been no advances in medicine and

health, in fact, no fair at all. This wonder will be shown in a particularly striking exhibit.

Built something like a planetarium, it will be a huge model of the inside of a man's head. World's Fair visitors may walk into this and stroll over the teeth and down the passageways for food and breath. They will learn from the inside out the geography of the human brain. A guide will help them locate the nerve centers for sight, sound and smell; the body's master gland; and all the other intricate structures locked up in the close compartment of the human skull.

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POPULATION

Population Problems Call For a Government Policy

Expert Urges Study of Increasing Labor Groups, Differences in Birthrates, Old Age Problems

CONSIDERATION of human resources as well as physical and economic factors in forming government policies in the United States was urged by Dr. T. J. Woofter, Jr., coordinator of rural research for the Works Progress Administration, at the International Population Congress.

Dr. Woofter called attention specifically to some of the human elements that press for attention on the part of those guiding the nation's destiny:

1. Number of young job-seekers. Although births are declining in the United States, the number of those reaching employment age has not yet begun to decline. During the early 1930's, the United States was adding to her labor market almost as fast, probably, as it ever will. Six million young men and women entered the ranks of those seeking employment between 1930 and 1936, at just the time when industry was least able to absorb them. The rate of those reaching 18 years will continue to increase up to about 1942 and then decline rather rapidly after that.

2. Difference between city and country birthrates. Children, like agricultural crops, grow better in the country. For a number of years, the rural regions have been helping the cities to maintain their numbers, for birthrates in the city are too low for replacement of one generation by the next.

3. Difference in birthrates for prosperous and poor. In country and city alike,

the poor people are those who have the large families. In the past this has caused a "population pressure" and a natural movement of people from farms that are not fertile to better lands and to the cities.

4. The trek to the cities. Although cities did not have enough births to replace those removed by death, increase in city population between 1910 and 1930 amounted to 27,000,000 although the increase in rural population was only 4,000,000. These figures tell of an enormous movement from farm to city.

5. Decrease in farm to city movement. The depression put a stop to this natural movement. Boys and girls out of a job went back home for shelter. This meant a movement back to the farm, and, since the less prosperous farms have the most children, it meant a movement back to the poorest land.

Steps have been taken by the Government to meet these problems, Dr. Woofter pointed out. Such are the programs to aid maturing youth—CCC, transient work camps, Youth Administration employment projects. But these affect practically only those whose families are on relief.

The Resettlement Administration has made a beginning in the direction of a planned distribution of the population. Old age pension legislation is an attempt to meet the problem of increase in the proportion of old people, whose numbers will increase from 6,600,000 in 1930 to 14,200,000 in 1960.

RADIO

August 17, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.

WONDERS OF THE HEAVENS—Dr. F. R. Moulton, noted astronomer.

August 24, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.

ADOPTED CHILDREN—Dr. Mandel Sherman, psychologist of the University of Chicago.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The policy of crop control, on the contrary, ignored the population problem, Dr. Woofter said. Restricting crops results in less opportunity for those seeking farm employment.

"The first step in population planning in the United States seems to call for facing the issue of quality versus quantity and a decision as to which of the policies is to be paramount," Dr. Woofter concluded. "Neither in increase in quantity, improvement of quality, nor nationalization of distribution does the national Government have a clear-cut policy.

"This is not owing to neglect of a clearly recognized need. It is rather owing to the fact that without further research, exact and detailed knowledge in each of these fields is insufficient to form the basis of intelligent planning."

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937



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