

magnitude of minus 1.5, about that of the brightest stars in the globular star clusters. Proof of this, of course, must await the discovery of variable stars in the group, but if the assumption is correct, the cluster is about 250,000 light-years away and has a diameter of about 6500 light-years.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1938

PHYSIOLOGY

New Sex Hormones Aid in Studies of Gland Ailments

TWO newly-discovered male hormones found in women of the "bearded lady" type were described by Dr. Fred C. Koch of the University of Chicago at the New York Academy of Medicine.

Chemically these two new male hormones are related to one of the female hormones and to the cortical hormone of the adrenal glands. This suggests, Dr. Koch pointed out, that women become "bearded ladies" because of disorders in either adrenal glands or ovaries which lead to production of the new male hormones.

Total number of known male hormones is now seven, Dr. Koch reported. Chemical studies of these hormones may lead in future to tests which will show whether too much or too little of any or all of them are being produced in the body. This would enable physicians to detect various glandular disorders at an early stage without resorting to exploratory operations.

The adult of the human species is unique, Dr. Koch pointed out, in that both males and females excrete from 20 to 100 times the weight of male hormones per liter as stallion, bull, ram or male rats. The total weight of male hormones excreted by men and women in the United States is estimated at between one-half and one ton per day.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1938

A bee laden with honey cannot sting, even in self-defense.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

1,045 Dishes in Tomb Believed New Record

ONE thousand forty-five vases—archaeologists counted them—were found when a French expedition dug its way into a tomb in Syria.

Explorers are accustomed to find a pottery bowl or two in primitive or ancient graves. Placing offerings of food and drink with the dead is a widespread custom that began far back in prehistoric times, and that has seemed reasonable even to some well advanced civilizations. Occasionally a burial is found containing a large assortment of dishes. But over a thousand of them, intact—well, that is believed to constitute a record. It would stock a sizable shop.

Explaining why so much pottery was showered on a tomb containing two individuals is a problem for archaeological reasoning. A British archaeologist, M. E. L. Mallowan, suggests this answer:

He thinks the two buried there may have been so venerated that for generations people continued to bring offerings.

Other clues besides pottery point to this theory. There were large quantities of goat bones in the tomb, which may have been remnants of ritual feasting. The tomb was supplied with an entrance like a well shaft, down which offerings and the goat bones could be lowered.

This Syrian tomb is at least as old as the eighteenth century before Christ. Mr. Mallowan regards it as older, possibly as early as 2500 B. C.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1938

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