



ARCHAEOLOGY

Sling-Stone Fighting Clue to Britain's Past

IN THE LIGHT of present international upheavals, ancient European struggles seem more vivid. A British archaeologist, Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, has found in France new evidence from the time when Caesar's Roman legions were invading that region and finding the Veneti a stubbornly resistant tribe.

Dr. Wheeler thinks that when Caesar did vanquish the troublesome Veneti in their homeland in northwest France, now southern Brittany, a remnant escaped to settle in Britain. But within a century, a colony of these refugees themselves had to face Roman arrows and sling-stones when Vespasian invaded Britain and attacked Maiden Castle in 43 A. D.

It was to seek the origin of the im-

migrants who so fiercely defended Maiden Castle that Dr. Wheeler recently went to France. He had just finished excavating Maiden Castle, and finding the ruins and battered skeletons mute evidence of terrible battle. The Roman soldiers took rampart after rampart, advancing up sloping, winding tracks that led maze-like up to the castle. Roman siege catapults shot arrows, and slingers on raised platforms fired stones. Flimsy huts were fired. When the castle gates fell, the siege was over. The defenders at night hastily buried their dead.

The defenders were not old natives of Britain, but foreigners recent enough to retain their own striking plans for fortification. Their multiple line of ramparts was defense against a new weapon—the sling. Sling-stones in quantity showed that both sides used this weapon. Other recent discoveries have indicated that these foreigners with their own brand of civilization were elsewhere in southwest Britain.

Dr. Wheeler sought these old immigrants until he reached southern Brittany and examined fortified works of the Veneti in their homeland. Multiple ditches and quantities of sling-stones were conspicuous there, he reports to the scientific journal *Nature*. The Veneti, who figured in Caesar's Gallic wars, now have a new chapter written into their history.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Tuberculosis Fighters Ask Help of Leaders

LEADERS in the fight to save lives threatened by tuberculosis are asking help from leaders of industry, youth, community groups, fraternal orders and the clergy. The cooperation of the lay leaders is being sought as part of the early-diagnosis campaign which the National Tuberculosis Association is conducting this month.

"The patient with early tuberculosis is much easier to cure than those with advanced disease," Dr. Kendall Emerson, managing director of the Association, points out.

Systematic search for the disease among apparently healthy persons will detect as many as eight early cases for every ten cases found. Since it is hardly practicable to search for tuberculosis in the entire population, the National Tuberculosis Association advises making the search among groups especially likely to have tuberculosis.

These are: Persons who have had close contact with the disease, high school and college students, young women between the ages of 15 and 30, middle-aged men, old people, Negroes, special occupational groups.

The help of leaders of these groups is sought in having members of the groups tested for unsuspected, early tuberculosis.

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AERONAUTICS

To Start Fire Tests On Airplane Engines

A CIVIL Aeronautics Authority research program to cut the fire hazard of airplane gasoline engines, most dangerous fire source aloft, was reported to the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Research engineers of the government body charged with regulating and fostering civil aviation will soon begin tests on a radial engine, the most widely used type, to develop quicker means of detecting and putting out incipient blazes and to find more fire-resistant materials of which to build motors.

Tests on the radial engine will be followed by similar studies on the other important powerplant type, the in-line motor.

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Benjamin Franklin was one of the early advocates of crop insurance.

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