ARCHÆOLOGY

Beginnings of Maya Culture

By E. N. FALLAIZE

Secretary, Royal Anthropological Institute

Recent excavations at Lubaantun in British Honduras have furnished results which make it seem likely that further work on this site may throw light on the obscure question of the origin of the early culture of Central America. As is well known, the culture of Central America when discovered by the Spaniards had reached a comparatively high level. Archæological research has further revealed the fact that the races of Central America, and especially the Maya of Yucatan and Honduras, produced work of high artistic excellence, especially in architecture, stone carving, and fresco painting. But even the so called "Early Maya" culture of Copan and Quirigua has a long history of artistic development behind it. Yet no archæological investigation has succeeded in bringing to light any evidence to show what were the earliest beginnings of this highly developed culture, and the lines upon which it travelled to arrive at the pitch of excellence at which we know it. This is the problem which it is now hoped to solve at Lubaantun.

The recent excavations which make this appear possible were carried out by Capt. T. Athol Joyce of the British Museum, England, in company with Lady Richmond Brown and F. A. Mitchell Hedges, to whom the concession to make excavations was first granted by the Government of British Honduras.

The site of Lubaantun lies on a spur between two converging river valleys which lead down to the Columbia river. The top of the spur was levelled and a number of buildings erected upon it, principally pyramids and mounds intended for religious purposes. The sides of the hill were hollowed out into a series of terraces which were faced with blocks of stone. The earlier terraces were subsequently covered over or refaced by additions of later date. In several respects the remains on the site are unique in Maya archæology, and the site itself is the largest Maya site known, being over 600 feet in length and 500 feet broad.

Four different styles of architecture can be distinguished in the building of the terraces and with one exception their chronological relation can be determined. The

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Pres. Noyes on the A.A.A.S.

In response to a request by Science Servcie, Dr. A. A. Noyes, newly elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has made the following statement.

It seems to me that there are three main directions in which the American Association is making large practical contributions to the "Advancement of Science"—the purpose expressed in its title:

It is popularizing science, by creating better appreciation among the intelligent public of the spirit and methods of science and of the tremendous intellectual and practical importance of extending by research the bounds of knowledge.

It is acting as an agency for the federation and broadening of scientific work, by bringing together, especially at its annual meetings, the various scientfic societies and leading scientific men in different fields.

It is directly promoting research, by the formulation and promotion of large projects of investigation, by assistance to and recognition of individual investigators.

The last of these functions the Association shares with other scientific organizations. In connection with the first two of these functions it has, however, a somewhat unique opportunity; and to fuller realization of this its efforts in the next few years should, I think be primarily devoted.

Dr. A. A. Noyes is director of the Gates Chemical Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, a position which he has held since 1920. Previous to that time he had for seven years been in charge of research in chemistry at the same institution. His earlier career had centered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his first alma mater, and had included a period of two years as its acting president.

Dr. Noyes was born at Newburyport, Mass., in 1866. His education began at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1886 and his master's degree one year later. He went to Germany for his Ph.D., which he received at Leipzig in 1890. He holds honorary degrees from the University of Maine, Clark University, the University of Pittsburgh, Harvard University and Yale University.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Does Sex Sway Thinking?

When you hear the word "party" what do you think of first? This is one of a series of test words used in a series of experiments being carried on by Dr. Lewis Terman of Stanford University to determine the degree of masculinity and feminity in the make-up of the personality. To the word "party" the boys were most apt to respond "eat" and the girls "dress." When the word "squeeze" was spoken most of the boys thought first of "lemon" and the girls "love." But for the most part the tests so far given show that traditional ideas on what each sex is interested in and finds attractive are far from accurate. It was hardly expected that girls would excell boys in remembering the number of bones in the body, or that boys would outdo the girls in knowing about the Mona Lisa, but such is the case, Dr. Terman found.

"Very little is known as to the differences between the sexes in abilities and talents and character," he stated. "Literature on feminism sheds more light on sex prejudices than on sex differences. This investigation aims to find out where the differences really lie, and how they may be characterized."

Definite information may settle the old question of whether the extremely masculine type and the clinging vine feminine type really make the best matrimonial combination, Dr. Terman suggested.

PSYCHOLOGY—PHYSICS

"Blues" Collected by Camera

The white magic by which the modern scientist can make sound waves appear before him and reveal their secrets is described by Dr. Carl E. Seashore, of the University of Iowa. He said that photographic records of the sound waves that make up a song are far more faithful in detail than the message that the song carries even to the most musical ear. Dr. Seashore has a visible record of a negro "blues" song as sung in a cornfield and also an Indian song.

Showing how these marks in black and white reveal much more definite information as to the pitch, vibrato, and other qualities of the singer's voice than phonograph records can record, he declares that no collector of primitive music can now afford to collect with the phonograph alone.