

# HAS CLEAREST SKIES IN WORLD

## Quetta May Be Chosen for Smithsonian-Geographic Observatory.

Washington.—Quetta, in Baluchistan, near which it is probable that a new solar observatory will be established by the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution, is familiar—as a name—to readers of Kipling and workers of cross-word puzzles, but probably means little to most Americans. The city and its region, recently visited by Dr. C. G. Abbott, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, are the subjects of a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

"Quetta exists primarily for military purposes," says the bulletin, "but the Pax Britannica that has been substituted for the lawlessness and banditry of former days has made an important civil community and trading center of it as well. Baluchistan is India's fortress to the east, and Quetta is its donjon keep. The British have been in control of the place since 1877, and since 1882 have held it under perpetual lease from its old ruler, the picturesque named Wall of Kalat.

"When the British went in Quetta was only a little group of mud huts surrounded by unhealthy plains that were virtually swamps. Drainage and sanitation have made the place over. Now Quetta has a population of about 80,000; and the once swampy lowlands furnish a setting for villas and farm-houses surrounded by orchards and planted groves.

### Mud Gives Way to Iron.

"The outstanding feature of Quetta, still, however, is the cantonment where six or eight regiments of British and Indian troops are quartered. This extensive post is to the north on relatively high ground while the civil town is to the south on a lower level. Mud, in the form of sun-dried brick, is still a most important building material in the town, though not to the extent that it was two decades ago. Then mud-brick domes formed many of the roofs, and were considered safe because of Quetta's scant rainfall (about 10 inches annually). But there came an unusually wet spring, and most of Quetta's buildings melted away. Since then many iron roofs—less picturesque, but better insurance against weather vagaries—have surmounted the mud walls of the town.

"The permeation of Quetta by British, or perhaps more broadly, by Western, influence, is a phenomenon that cannot be escaped by anyone who has known the town over a series of years. The standard of living rises before his eyes. Tea, a little while ago a marked luxury, is becoming a common beverage. Leather footwear has displaced sandals to a noteworthy degree; all classes are wearing warmer and more comfortable clothing; and the native women are decking themselves out in more ornaments, after the manner of their prosperous sisters in other climes.

"The climate of Quetta has interesting aspects. The place is in the same latitude as Cairo, Jacksonville, Fla., and Shanghai; but, because of its 6,000 feet of altitude and the physical aspect of the surrounding country, its climate is very different. Each day the mercury bobs up and down through a wide range. The difference between daily maximum and minimum has been known to reach 80 degrees; but such excessive changes are confined to certain short seasons. The hills and even the valleys of Baluchistan are largely treeless, and when the sun is down heat radiates away rapidly. As a consequence the nights are always cool—

"In the matter of combating the climate, there is nothing like an American standard of comfort in the homes even of Europeans in Quetta. The winters in general are no more severe than those of Washington, but the houses are so constructed that it is most difficult if not impossible to keep warm. The rooms are huge—16 by 25 feet or so, with ceilings 18 to 24 feet high. Small fireplaces are set far into the very thick walls and what little warmth they radiate into the rooms is lost in their vastness. Yet coal of fair quality is mined nearby and is used in the town. Its use in modern heating systems could make Quetta homes as comfortable as any in the world.

### "Clearest Sky in the World."

"If the National Geographic-Smithsonian solar observatory is established in Baluchistan it will be placed on top of 7,525-foot Kojak peak about 40 miles north of Quetta near the railroad which pierces the Kojak range and extends to Chaman, ten miles beyond on the Afghan border. To the east beyond the Kojak mountains the Registan or Helmand desert stretches for more than 100 miles. It is 60 miles to the nearest mountains in the north. To the east lies a long, broad valley. On this relatively isolated mountain ridge on the edge of the desert the precipitation is even less than in Quetta—probably seven inches or less per year. When Doctor Abbot visited the Kojak peak in January he reported that the sky was perfectly blue right up to the sun's edge and added: 'It was the clearest sky I have ever seen in the world.'

## Smallpox Still Has the Best of Science

Smallpox, historically one of the oldest diseases, has long baffled medical science. It seems to have been known from the earliest times in India. It existed in China many centuries before Christ. And the eruption on the skin of a mummy of the Twentieth dynasty, 1200-1100 B. C., suggests that it was prevalent in Egypt.

The Crusades were probably largely responsible for bringing the disease from the East to the West. Thus in the Fifteenth and subsequent centuries numerous epidemics occurred with a high mortality.

Since the beginning of the Twentieth century two distinct types of smallpox have been simultaneously present in Great Britain, writes a physician in the London Mail. The first of these is a mild, highly infectious type, with a mortality of less than 1 per cent, which originated in the United States and Canada and was first introduced into England about 1903-5.

The second is a much more virulent type, which originated in northern Africa and spread thence to Spain, France, Italy and Great Britain. Although this variety is not so infectious, the mortality is greater.

## Cheerful and Sturdy Room for Small Boy

A small boy's room should be above all things cheery, sturdy—yes, but homelike and inviting. He does not appreciate all the dainty fripperies dear to his sister's heart. The wise mother plans his room so it is a pleasant place for him to store his treasures and entertain his friends without damage to fragile material and delicate colors.

As a beginning, if you are planning to furnish your small son's room, select a warm two-tone tan-stripe paper, dark enough so dirt will not show, but light enough to give a cheerful light to the room. For decoration put one of the many bright-colored wall paper friezes at the top—about eighteen inches deep—showing in its spreading scenic design, vermilion and orange, blue and green or a cream or tan ground.

Monk's cloth draperies in warm golden brown with an orange stripe, with gold-colored undercurtains will be serviceable, surely, and decorative also. The drapery material may be used as a cover for the metal bed as well—perhaps fringed along its length. Bright colors may be added in vermilion pillows, green and red copies of old English prints on the walls and the banners and trophies dear to every youngster's heart.—Kansas City Times.

## Middle-Age Philosophy

Scholasticism was the philosophy of the schools of the Middle Ages. It represented an attempt to fuse the beliefs of the church with the logic of Aristotle. The greatest teachers of the scholastic method were those of the Thirteenth century, among them being Albertus Magnus, Roger Bacon, Duns Scotus, and Thomas Aquinas. The latter, known as the "Angel of the Schools," outlined the whole scheme of Roman Catholic theology in his "Summa Theologia." Though the latter scholastics busied themselves with many unprofitable speculations—such as "How many angles can be supported on the point of a needle?"—the whole movement was valuable in awakening the mental life of Europe from the lethargy of the previous centuries, and in preparing the way for the revival of classical learning known as the Renaissance.

## On Thinking

Thinking is a very dangerous business. Particularly if we believe what we think, it will lead us to do things which we may later regret. Or it will lead us not to do them, which we may regret even more. It makes for investigation and analysis—for dissection and probing—and it is not long before we begin to detect flaws in those very delights that we once believed to be perfect. We may even go so far as to discover hopeless errors in ourselves. Thus, disillusion sets in—disillusion that threads its subtle way into the contentment of our lives and spreads with lightning-like rapidity. Soon it is too late to do anything but submit. We are lost in a sea of ideas. Thinking, like love, is a game without rules. We strongly advise against it.—Exchange.

## Character in Mythology

Phaon depicted in "A Reading From Homer," was a deformed boatman of Mytilene. He was famed for his chivalry. Once an old woman asked him to ferry her across the sea, although she could not pay her fare. When safely across the sea the woman gave the kind ferryman a box of ointment, telling him to rub the contents on his misshapen shoulders. When he did so, Phaon was changed to a handsome young man. Venus, in the guise of the old woman, had wrought the miracle. Soon Phaon and Sappho became lovers.

## Origin of "Tabloid"

The word "tabloid" was arbitrarily coined by Burroughs, Wellcome and company of London, England, and applied to a preparation of drugs in a concentrated and condensed form. Although the term is a copyright trademark of this firm it is now widely used to designate anything concise or condensed, as tabloid newspapers.—Exchange.

# TIBET HAS REAL AMERICAN INDIAN

## Find Throws Light on Origin of Natives of This Continent.

Washington.—In far-away Tibet, 6,000 miles distant from the nearest point of the American continent, there exist true American Indian types. This conclusion, which throws much important light on the question of the origin of the American Indian, is one of the profoundly significant fruits of a remarkable journey of 50,000 miles, covering half the globe and occupying seven months, which Dr. Ales Hrdlicka made under the joint auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and the Buffalo Society of Natural Science last year, and the first account of which now appears in the annual exploration pamphlet of the Smithsonian Institution.

Doctor Hrdlicka, who is curator of physical anthropology in the United States National museum and who recently published a description of the new type of white American, undertook his journey to survey what has been and what is being done in the study of ancient man and of the fossil apes in France, in India, in Ceylon, Java, Australia and South Africa. Such a world survey of the position of physical anthropology is perhaps unique, and it produced results of great significance.

Of the types found in Tibet (and elsewhere in eastern Asia) Doctor Hrdlicka says that they are so true to that of the American Indian that if they were transplanted into America nobody could possibly take them for anything but Indian. Men, women and children resemble the American aborigines in behavior, in dress and even in the intonations of their language. The importance of the light his discovery throws on the origin of the native Americans is obvious.

After a brief stop in France Doctor Hrdlicka early in April last year took ship to India, stopping to examine some Arab types at Port Said and Aden. Of the pure-blood Arab, the anthropologist says that he shows a lively, intelligent white man's physiognomy (though mostly brown in color), and that the higher class pure Arab is often as light as the southern European.

In India Doctor Hrdlicka visited the Siwalk hills, an area that probably is the richest source of anthropoid ape fossils in existence. Within the last two years five or six new varieties of such fossil anthropoids have been found there.

## Migration of Negrito.

At present one of the most interesting problems in anthropology is to explain the presence of the Negrito in the Philippines and Andamans. How did he get to his present homes? His nearest relatives are apparently the pygmies of central Africa, but a great unbridged space has till now separated the two. If he extended from Africa he must have left traces of his passing in Arabia and India. Such traces, so far at least as the Indian coast lands are concerned, Doctor Hrdlicka became satisfied do exist. They occur in Parganas, northwest of Calcutta, in at least one area along the eastern coast, here and there among the Dravidians and in the Malabar hills. These discoveries bring the Negrito a long way farther to the westward and so much nearer Africa, making his derivation from that continent so much the more probable.

With regard to the bulk of the present population of India, Doctor Hrdlicka believes he can say with confidence that it is mainly composed of three ethnic elements—the Semitic, the Mediterranean, and in certain parts the Hamitic, or North African. The Aryans show everywhere either the Semitic or the Mediterranean type. Doctor Hrdlicka saw nothing that could be referred to the types of central or northern Europe. It would seem, therefore, that the Aryans came from Persia and Asia Minor rather than from or through what is now European Russia.

## Hears of Wild Men.

Passing through Ceylon, where he reports no definite trace as yet of geologically ancient man, Doctor Hrdlicka proceeded to Java, touching at Sumatra and the Straits Settlements. Of Sumatra, a country not yet perfectly known, he says that "there still prevail in the island, among the whites as well as the natives, beliefs in the existence of wild men. There are said to be two varieties. The Orang Pandak (orang—man, pandak—short) is said to live in the almost impenetrable mountain forests of the central and southern parts of the island. The natives describe him as black, short, long-haired and wild, but not insurmountably shy. The second form is the Orang Sedapak. He is said to live in the unhealthy lowlands of the southern part of Sumatra. He is described as having the body of a child of twelve, with long red hair on head and body. He is very shy and runs but does not climb.

In the mountainous regions of the upper parts of the Malay peninsula, according to information given to Doctor Hrdlicka, there still live thousands of negritoid people, and there are many old caves waiting to be explored.

The visit to Java was made chiefly to inspect the site of the Pithecanthropus, but Doctor Hrdlicka also desired to satisfy himself as to any possible cultural traces of early man, and as to the present population.

When the actual site of the Pithecanthropus was reached by Doctor Hrdlicka, a whole gang of natives advised by the police were already waiting there, each bringing a little pile of fossils gathered from the muddy ledges of the river as they were exposed by the receding water. These fossils were eagerly examined and a good selection was made for the National museum, but they included no remains of any primate.

In the eastern portion of Java Doctor Hrdlicka found traces of the pre-Malay Hindoo population which peopled the island in early historic times. In the central part of Java these people evidently reached a rather high degree of culture and left imposing ruins.

Full-blood and otherwise full-colored Australians, but with tow hair, were one of the phenomena observed in a boat journey along the western coast of Australia. Doctor Hrdlicka also attended some of the impressive ceremonies of the native Australians.

## Sheds New Light.

"The data obtained in Australia," writes Doctor Hrdlicka, "throw a very interesting and to some extent new light on the moot questions of both the Australian and Tasmanian aborigines. According to these observations, the Australian aborigines deserve truly to be classed as one of the most fundamental and older races of mankind, and yet it is a race which shows close connections with our own ancestral stock—not with the negroes or Melanesians (except through admixture), but with the old white people of post-glacial times.

As to the Tasmanians, the indications are that they were but a branch of the Australians, modified perhaps a little in their own country. Both peoples have lived and the Australians of the Northwest live largely to this day, in a paleolithic stage of stone culture. They are still making unpolished stone tools, which in instances resemble the Moustierian implements or later European paleolithic types. But they are also capable of a much higher class of work. Today, about Derby, bottles are used in making beautifully worked spear heads.

From Australia Doctor Hrdlicka's journey led to South Africa, and disembarking at Durban, Natal, the first task was to see as many as possible of the Zulu, about whose exact blood affinities there was some doubt. From an examination of many individuals the anthropologist reached the conclusion that the Zulu is unquestionably a true negro, though now and then, as in other negro tribes, showing a trace of Semetic (Arab) type due probably to old admixtures.

The two main objects of the visit to South Africa were the investigation of the spot of the important find of the Rhodesian skull, and of the recent discovery of the skull of a fossil anthropoid ape at Taungs, which had been reported as being possibly a direct link in the line of man's ascent. The Rhodesian skull, found in 1921 at Broken Hill, shows a man so primitive in many of its features that nothing like it has been seen before. Doctor Hrdlicka was able to clear up some of the moot points in connection with this important find, and he collected for study bones of animals from the cave which gave the Rhodesian skull as well as two additional mineralized bones belonging to two individuals all of which were deposited with the earlier relics in the British museum.

## Land Rich in Material.

The fossil skull of an anthropoid ape, found in Taungs in 1924, belongs according to Doctor Hrdlicka, to a species of anthropoid ape of about the size of a chimpanzee and evidently related to this form, though there are certain differences, especially in the brain. These differences suggested that this ape may possibly have been somewhat superior to the chimpanzee and nearer to the human. But it is not necessarily a form that stood in the direct line of the human phylum.

## Bootblacks Still Ply Trade in Chinatown

San Francisco.—The wandering bootblack with his small box and brushes remains an institution in Chinatown immune to the waves of modernism transforming the oriental district.

Every morning these embryo business men sally forth to ply their trade and for years the Chinese boys have regarded the city hall of justice, which borders Chinatown, as a favored zone. Even the august presence of Chief of Police Dan O'Brien is invaded daily.

A pitched battle between bootblacks of Chinatown and the Italian quarter at North Beach resulted recently when the Italian lads decided to enter the lucrative hall of justice field. The invasion was repelled, but in retaliation the Italian boys declared a ban against the orientals in a district to the north. Since that time peace has prevailed in both camps.

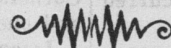
## Steals Own Car

Omaha, Neb.—Weston Wiswall is going to be careful next time he steals his own car. He found it parked downtown, the Mrs. having gone shopping, and he used it. The Mrs. notified the police and he was arrested. He could not identify himself nor find the Mrs. and he passed two nights in jail.

## Born on Trolley

Louisville, Ky.—When Conductor J. A. Davidson, in charge of an interurban car from Ordeal to Louisville, pulled his car to the station here he found a passenger had paid no fare. A child had been born to a woman who was en route to the hospital. Mother and child are doing nicely.

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