

ARCHAEOLOGY

King Nabonidus and the Missing-Link City*(Continued from page 55)*

record to mean that Nabonidus had a demoniac seizure. But then the Persians were the enemies who at last conquered Babylon, and they lost no chance to put the Babylonian King in a poor light.

In the Book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar's insanity results from his worry over dreams which were linked with his religious perplexity, his fear of displeasing the most powerful of the deities, and losing his kingdom. Whether Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus are blended in the Biblical account of Babylon or not, Nabonidus surely was troubled about religion throughout his reign, and his devotion to his chosen Moon God may have caused his downfall.

One historian suggests that Nabonidus' religious beliefs were so violently opposed by the priests of Babylon that these priests even incited the people of the city to welcome Cyrus the Persian when he came to take Babylon. For Cyrus, the priests knew, would restore the old religious order of things and their own prestige. Whether Nabonidus was in Babylon at the time of its fall is not known. History says that Cyrus treated him kindly.

If the site of Teima is ever explored, it is predicted that the result will shed new light on some of these tangled events in the lives of Nabonidus and Belshazzar.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

it would be necessary to have scientific tests made, for which work the bureau is not equipped at present.

It is believed that the public is being cheated of vast sums of money through being induced to purchase foods falsely advertised as rich in one or more of the essential vitamins.

The agricultural appropriation bill, passed by the House and now before the Senate, carries an item of \$30,200. for the vitamin testing work by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

ARCHAEOLOGY-ETHNOLOGY

To Study The Mayas By Living With Them

THIS WEEK a treasure-hunting party left the Field Museum of Natural History, in Chicago, to visit the extremely dense tropical forests of Central America. The treasure they will seek is not to be doubloons, however, but buried traces left behind centuries ago by the ancient Mayas which may give modern man new knowledge of the life of that great people.

The expedition is led by J. Eric Thompson, assistant curator in charge of Central and South American archaeology at the Field Museum. The party will sail from New Orleans to Belize, in British Honduras; then up the coast to the New River; and then inland up the river as far as a boat can go; and finally will travel by mule pack train and on foot to the ancient city called in the Mayan tongue Kax Unuic, or "Man of the Woods." Here ruins will be explored which probably date back as far as the beginning of the Christian era, perhaps even further.

Later the expedition will visit the dense forests of the Petén district of Guatemala, a locality where man has not lived for many years, in search of ancient Mayan cities which are known to exist but which have never been found by modern white men. If the explorers are lucky, they will find in these ruined cities the remains of old monuments bearing dates in Maya hieroglyphics.

The aid of the modern Mayan people will be enlisted to find the ruins, and by living among these people, the archaeologists hope also to be able to trace many of the present customs back to the culture of the early Mayas.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

PSYCHOLOGY

Women Remember Pleasant Events; Men Unpleasant

IF YOU are a woman you tend to remember, as time passes, more of the pleasant experiences in life than the unpleasant. But if you are a man, you remember the unpleasant to a greater degree than the happy things that happen to you.

This is what Dr. H. Meltzer, psychologist of the psychiatric clinic of St. Louis and lecturer at Washington University, St. Louis, found in an investigation reported to the psychologists of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Cleveland.

He gave a new sort of psychological test to seventy-seven men and fifty-five women. Just after they had spent their last Christmas holidays he asked each to list all the pleasant and unpleasant experiences of the vacation period. Then without warning six weeks later he asked them to do the same thing. He compared the listings and found that there is a sex difference in the kind of experiences remembered after a month and a half.

The feminine tendency to forget, which Dr. Meltzer discovered, is explained by him as what psychoanalysts speak of as an escape mechanism. The female of the species uses this method of forgetting instead of resorting to alcohol, in Dr. Meltzer's opinion.

"Men more frequently than women even in modern days use what George Bernard Shaw talks of as the opiate of booze to make them forget," the psychologist said.

The larger extent of remembering of the pleasant by women is explained by Dr. Meltzer in terms of the psychology of compensation.

"The richer memory-experiences in women," he said, "are a compensation for their poorer actual experience in everyday life."

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

NUTRITION

Government To Check Vitamin Food Claims

BUYERS of food have become so vitamin-conscious, that an expenditure of over \$30,000 by the Food and Drug Administration will be required next year to check up on foods advertised as containing these important substances.

In presenting to the House Committee on Appropriations the necessity for the vitamin work, the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration pointed out that to take action in cases where false claims were made for vitamin potency,