

ANTHROPOLOGY

Oldest Murder Unearthed

An anthropologist has discovered the oldest murder, committed over 600,000 years ago in East Africa. The first Chellean man was found nearby.

► THE OLDEST MURDER in human history has been discovered and unearthed.

The victim was a child, about 11 years old, whose skull was fractured by a blow. An adult's remains found nearby and the partial skull of the child are those of the earliest human tool-making creatures known to science.

The crime was committed more than 600,000 years ago in Olduvai Gorge, Tanganyika, East Africa.

The discoverer, Dr. L. S. B. Leakey of the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, Kenya, has brought the skull to America to show to fellow anthropologists. Dr. Leakey announced the discovery to the British scientific world in December, 1960 (SNL, 79:23,

1961), but since this time Dr. Leakey has evaluated the find and discovered the murder.

The newly-found most ancient human remains are still unnamed. Dr. Leakey also discovered in 1959 another ancient man, at Olduvai, *Zinjanthropus boisei*, who lived more than 600,000 years ago.

However, he said that the new find is even older than *Zinjanthropus*, although this more ancient man apparently was of different stock from *Zinjanthropus*, with a larger brain case and teeth more like human teeth. (*Zinjanthropus* has been called Nutcracker man because of his huge teeth.)

Dr. Leakey said the new find of the more ancient man was made when his 19-

year-old son found the jaw of a saber-toothed tiger about 250 feet from where *Zinjanthropus* was found. A dig was made on the spot and the remains discovered.

These remains included bones of a hand and a foot, the first such bones of an early man. The earliest hand and foot bones known up to that time were those of Neanderthal man who lived about 50,000 years ago.

The hand and foot bones may give the clue to the overall size of the individual, but Dr. Leakey said he has not yet determined the size.

However, he said that the collarbone of the child was as large as that of a modern-day male adult. This does not mean that this ancient child was a giant, but that he or she had a very heavy bone structure.

Dr. Leakey also reported the finding of the first skull of Chellean man nearby, whom anthropologists have sought for more than a century. Chellean man's tools have been found in Europe, Asia and Africa, but he himself has not been found before. He is reported to have lived about 400,000 years ago.

Dr. Leakey was in Washington, D. C., to address meetings at the National Geographic Society and the Cosmos Club.

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DISCOVERER OF EARLY MAN—Dr. L. S. B. Leakey holds a cast of his find of the first skull of Chellean man who lived about 400,000 years ago in East Africa. On the table are casts of his finds of skull parts of an adult and a child who lived there more than 600,000 years ago. The child's teeth (next to the skull parts) indicate he (or she) was 11 years old at the time of death when killed by a blow on the head.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Mail Order Quack Can Kill His Victims

► THE MEDICAL mail-order quack may be a killer.

By delaying early and proper treatment by a physician, victims of mail-order quackery are in danger of injury and death, Harry Kursh charged in an article in *Today's Health*, March, 1961, published by the American Medical Association.

Mr. Kursh said that peddling useless drugs, fake remedies and gadgets in the United States mails is a "lucrative source of income for some of the meanest sharpies in the world."

Despite the vigilance of U. S. Postal Inspection Service, which has prevented mail-order quackery from becoming a worse swindle than it is, the U. S. public was cheated out of \$50,000,000 last year by mail-order frauds, Mr. Kursh said.

So-called cures for patients with heart disease, arthritis, rheumatism and cancer are advertised on the theory that some people will pay anything for a promised "miracle."

The report charged that mail-order diets "without exception" are either "worthless or misleading." It said "the most vulnerable suckers on the mailing list are those who have ailments frequently associated with obesity—diabetes, thyroid disease, and heart, liver and kidney trouble."

Advising that "your best protection is your own doctor," Mr. Kursh said the physician can look into suspicious medical advertising more quickly and reliably than the patient.

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