

Scientists Unveil Many Dark Secrets

DIAMOND MINES IN CANADA ARE TRACED BY STONES FOUND IN VARIOUS PARTS OF UNITED STATES.—HOW DEER GOT HIS HORNS, BOOSTER HIS SPURS AND PEACOCK HIS GAUDY PLUMAGE.

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 13.—By tracing more than a hundred diamonds found in glacial drift in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, Dr. George K. Kunz of New York, the mineralogist and gem expert, has succeeded in following the route of the glacier which carried them from Canada and in indicating the area in which diamond mines probably exist in Canada.

Dr. Kunz, who addressed the British Association for the Advancement of Science, submitted for Canadian geologists more than twenty specimens of rocks found in the glacial drift in association with the diamonds, and many of these specimens were identified as familiar rock in various localities in Ontario.

"One of the diamonds found in America was a fine stone of seventeen carats, which was discovered by men digging a well in Wisconsin," said Dr. Kunz. "More than 100 other diamonds have been found in glacial drift in America and some in Canada. I have seen a thirty-carat diamond which was found in gravel in Ontario. The man who found it brought it to show me in New York and I found it to be of excellent quality, probably having been carried by the same glacial movement which spread on in a fanlike formation. The owner of that diamond died and it is now in the possession of his son."

"Undoubtedly diamond mines exist in some parts of Canada, and by closely tracing the glacial drift to the point of origin the general locality of the mines can be found. All of the diamonds found in the world to-day do not occupy an area of more than four square miles."

"In the southwest movement the glacier must have gouged out the top of the diamond mine and carried the diamonds along, depositing them over an area of a thousand miles or more in diameter. I have no doubt that a diamond mine or mines of great value are to be found in Canada."

PLYMOUTH ROCK ALSO AN ALIEN.

Dr. Kunz, who is President of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, also succeeded in obtaining a geological identification of Plymouth Rock. That famous rock was shown to have been carried by a glacier from the mother body of rock north of the St. Lawrence, probably in Labrador. Dr. Kunz brought here bits of Plymouth Rock and microscopic sections for the examination of Dr. A. P. Coleman, Dr. W. H. Collins, Prof. T. L. Walker, Dr. H. M. Amf and other Canadian geologists.

Plymouth Rock was identified as "biotite granite with altered plagioclase feldspar." Dr. Kunz estimated that it made the pilgrimage to its present position on a glacier about 500,000 years ago.

An explanation of how the male deer acquired horns, and roosters spurs and peacocks their gorgeous plumage was offered by J. T. Cunningham. Injuries and irritations sustained in courtship and fighting by countless generations of these and other creatures gradually become hereditary characteristics, he said. By constant butting, the buck deer and goat developed their head injuries into permanent attributes.

The endocrine glands are the connecting link which makes it possible for local injuries, or the growth of callous tissue, to develop into hereditary features. The homeless deer, for instance, by driving his skull against the skulls of other deer for scores of generations, caused the injured tissue to be absorbed into its circulation, until the new substance caused some modification of the chemicals produced by certain endocrine glands which control growth. These changed chemicals, or hormones, passed by the glands, gradually into the horns of the deer and in some similar way the special fighting apparatus and decorations of other males were evolved.

HOW TO TELL AGE OF FISH.

To tell the age of a horse look into his mouth, but to learn the age of a fish look into his ear. There is practical as well as scientific interest in the method of estimating the age of a fish, announced W. J. K. Herkness of the University of Toronto. Fish canners and fish experts may use it.

In the region of the internal ear of fishes, corresponding in position and function to the semicircular canals or balancing organs of higher animals, there is a little closed, bony pocket. In this pocket there is a tiny stone-like object called an otolith, or "ear stone," which rolls about as the fish tips this way and that, and helps him to know whether he is right side up. These otoliths grow as the fish grows, and it is by a careful study of their marks and rates of growth that Mr. Herkness was able to devise his method of telling the age of a fish from the stones in his ears.

The rain-king project of Dr. W. D. Bancroft and L. Francis Warren has no commercial value, according to Dr. W. J. Humphreys, professor of meteorological physics at Washington who discussed all types of rain-making apparatus and pronounced them equally worthless, although it is said that scientific results of importance had been achieved in these experiments.

The Bancroft-Warren system of sprinkling clouds with electrified particles of sand had been used by the army for dispersing clouds and making holes in fog to enable airplanes to find their way from the sky to land and water. Planes equipped with their apparatus were taken to Nova Scotia to punch holes in the fog, if necessary, for the benefit of the round world fliers. These experiments have not yet attempted to apply their invention to the making of rain, on the ground that means must be found to protect the fliers from electrical effects that might be caused by bursting storm clouds with electrified particles.

Dr. Humphreys, however, included the Bancroft-Warren process with the others in his criticism of rain-making schemes. He classified the chief rain-making proposals as "the production of loud noises, fog collecting screens, mechanical or forced convection, dusting the sky, spraying liquid air on clouds and sprinkling clouds with electrified sand."

The Will

There comes a time in the life of every man when he must leave his worldly possessions to the care of another. In anticipation of this, therefore, the first obligation resting on an individual who is possessed of property is the making of a will, and this should be done before the capacities become impaired by time or the ravages of disease.

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