

## EGYPTIAN DISCOVERY

For the last two years the explorers of the Egyptian Exploration fund at Thebes have been engaged in digging out the oldest temple that is known there. It belongs to the XIth Dynasty to the King Mentuhotep Neb-hepet-Ra.

"This year our efforts have been directed towards the back part of the temple; we wished to see how it ended and how it was connected with the mountain at the end of the amphitheatre of Deir el bahari. In the first part of the season Mr. Hall discovered the enclosure wall and found that the enclosure was interrupted by a court or wide avenue, lined on both sides by a single row of columns and directed towards the mountain. The rock had been cut open to make way for the avenue.

"On the north side of this court, over the enclosure of the old temple, we found remains of a shrine of the XVIIIth Dynasty, of the great King Thothmes III.

"This building made of big blocks of sandstone, did not cover a very large area, and is badly destroyed. A first encouragement was a fine statue of a scribe who lived at the end of the XIXth Dynasty. As this statue was quite perfect, it seemed to us that it could not be alone. In this respect our hopes were deceived; we found no other statues; but, suddenly the removal of a few stones revealed to us a chapel covered with sculptures, the colors of which are absolutely fresh. It is about 10 feet long and 5 feet wide. The roof is vaulted, painted in blue with yellow stars. This chapel is dedicated to Hathor, the goddess of the mountain of the West, who generally has the form of a cow. The goddess has not left her sanctuary. In the chapel is a beautiful cow of life size, in painted limestone, reddish brown with black spots. The head, horns, and flanks have evidently been overlaid with gold. The neck is adorned with papyrus stems and flowers, as if she were coming out of the water. She is suckling a little boy, who is again represented as a grown man under her neck. The cartouche behind the head is that of Amenophis II, the son of Thothmes III, whose sculptures cover the wall.

"This is the first time that a goddess has been undisturbed found in her sanctuary. Besides, no cow has ever been found of such size and superb workmanship. The modelling of the animal is exquisite, and the distinctive characters of the Egyptian cattle of the present day are reproduced. The statue is uninjured except for a small piece of the right ear. The cow wears the special insignia of the goddess, the lunar disc between the horns surmounted by two feathers. There is so much life in her head, that she appears as if about to step out of her sanctuary: when one approaches the place the effect is very striking. This is evidently the scene represented on the numerous paintings on linen that have been found in the neighborhood.

"The Government were immediately notified, and the same evening some soldiers arrived, who are on guard night and day. The statue will be removed to Cairo as soon as possible, and the shrine also will probably be taken down and rebuilt in the museum. The value of these things is so enormous, and the difficulties of guarding them so great, that it is felt to be too serious a risk should they be left in the present position, especially as to the chances of pillage is added the possibility of destruction by falling rocks.—"The Times,"



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## The Papal Domain

A recent dispatch from Rome announces that the Pope, in the interests of economy, has decided to shut up the Vatican bird houses which were built under the supervision of the late Pope, and are among the largest in the world. The fact that the Vatican among its many and diverse possessions has great aviaries to care for and keep, leads the reader to wonder concerning the Vatican as a whole.

The palace itself has 20 courts, 1,100 halls, chapels, saloons and private apartments and 200 staircases. It is the largest palace in the world, was begun back in 496, rebuilt and enlarged in 1450. Nicholas V. set about making it the most imposing palace in the world, and the succeeding Popes added to his work. The Sistine chapel was created by Sixtus IV. in 1473; in 1490 Bramante built the Belvedere, and the Loggia was also built by him. Paul III. in 1534 founded the Pauline chapel, and the great library and present living rooms of the Papal Pontiff were founded by Sixtus V.

Everyone has heard of the vast collection of statuary, paintings and antiques to which the greater part of the Vatican is given over, and of the library and its priceless manuscripts. The Papal court uses but a comparatively small part of the buildings, and the Vatican is much more the home of art treasures than a Papal residence. The collection and art treasures are valued at \$120,000,000; the picture gallery is rated at \$14,000,000, the Egyptian museum at \$11,000,000, the Borgia museum at \$3,000,000, the collection of coins at \$4,600,000, other collections at \$8,000,000, the library at \$40,000,000.

Forming a part of the library wing of the Papal palace is the observatory of the Vatican, which contains more than a score of great rooms, and in every way is well adapted for astronomical work. One of the most interesting parts of this portion of the Vatican is the room in which the calendar was reformed (1582), it being preserved in much the same condition as it existed in the time of the promulgation of the calendar, Gregory XIII. The observatory underwent various vicissitudes after the Gregorian days, and it was left for Leo XIII. to restore the building, furnish modern equipment and furnish endowment for future needs. Very important astronomical work is carried on here, and in the observatory in the famous Leonine tower on the summit of the Vatican hill, situate about a quarter of a mile from the old observatory.

According to Marion Crawford, the Vatican may be divided into seven portions—the Pontifical residence, the Sistine and Pauline chapels, the picture galleries, the library, the museum of sculpture and archaeology, the out-buildings, including the barracks of the Swiss guards, the gardens with the Pope's casino.

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## A Curious Incident

A curious incident is recorded in Illustrated Catholic Missions, viz., the construction of a Chinese Catholic church in Mexico for the use of immigrant Chinese. San Lorenzo, a mining camp in the State of Sinaloa, is its site, a place with 500 inhabitants, of whom 200 are Chinese, while of these latter, more than half are Catholics. Their conversion was due to the French missionaries in China who settled in the town of Sang-ting-fu, and were very successful in Christianizing its inhabitants. A labor contractor appeared there seeking men for work in Mexico, and the 110 Catholics were amongst the first to accept his offer, fearing that if they remained at home their religion might expose them to animadversion or some form of persecution on the part of their pagan fellow-citizens. On reaching San Lorenzo, they immediately found themselves in want of a church of their own, for though there is only one in the settlement, the services are naturally conducted in Spanish, and

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of this language the Chinese were quite ignorant. They, therefore, set about arrangements for a church for their separate use, in which the services should be conducted in French and Chinese. The church has been finished, and was recently dedicated by Bishop Uranga of Sinaloa. It is a striking testimony to the faith of the Chinese converts that they should be willing to bear the expense of erecting and maintaining a separate church, of which the burden must necessarily fall heavily on so small a colony, all of the poor class of contract laborers.

## Toilers at the Vatican

Pius X. has from the beginning of his Pontificate continued the splendid policy inaugurated by Leo XIII. over twenty years ago of allowing scholars from all nations free access to the treasury of historical documents which the Vatican contains. England, Germany, Austria, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal, have each a select body of workers engaged on the Bulls, Briefs, Apostolic constitutions, State documents, etc., which serve to throw some light on the history of those countries. The labors of the Prussian delegation alone already amounts to seventeen octavo volumes of 500 pages each. The Gorres-Gesellschaft has published the first two volumes of its monumental work on the Council of Trent. The French school of Rome has issued fourteen quarto volumes of the "Acts of the Popes." The French priests attached to San Luigi die Francesi are working hard on the Nunciature of France. England is represented officially in the Archives by Mr. Bliss and Mr. Twenlow, while Mr. Rushforth of Oriel college Oxford, has published the first volume of Papers of the British school at Rome, on behalf of the society founded in 1901 to study the historical relations between the Holy See and England.

## Counting the Pulse

Writing in a recent issue of the "Catholic Times" of Liverpool, J. C. McWalter, D.D., says:

In the Fitzpatrick lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in London, Dr. Norman Moore made the following reference to a famous Cardinal. "Nicholas of Cusa was a man of varied learning and of a scientific habit of mind. He was a theological writer, a mathematician, and an observer of natural phenomena. He made an original examination of the Koran and critically discussed its contents, and in medicine he introduced an improvement which, in an altered form, has continued in use to this day. This improvement was the counting of the pulse, which up to this time had been felt and discussed in many ways, but never counted. The first method of a new invention is often unnecessarily cumbersome, but this does not detract from the merit of the man who first discerns its principle. Nicholas of Cusa proposed to compare the rate of pulses by weighing the quantity of water run out of a water clock while the pulse beat 100 times. Thus, he said, you may easily prove the degree in which the pulse of a young man is more rapid than that of an old man.

"The weight, therefore, of water that flows out in relation to the different pulses in the youth, in the aged man, in the healthy and the sick ought necessarily to lead to a truer knowledge of the disease, one weight being proper to one infirmity and a different weight to another."

"The manufacture of givens with these hands has since given us a simpler method of counting, but the merit

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of introducing this useful kind of observation into clinical medicine belongs to Nicholas of Cusa. He is buried in the church from which he took his title, St. Peter ad Vincula. Devotion attracts many people to this church, and a love of art, since it contains a great work of Michael Angelo, among others, and science adds a third interest in the monument of this improver of clinical medicine. His tomb has no ornament but its inscription; yet it is not improper to consider that he has a more lasting memorial in his commemoration over the whole globe wherever medicine is practised, by the simple clinical method of observation which he was the first to complete."

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