

The Mysteries Of Yucatan

AN AMERICAN DOCTOR'S EXPERI-

An interview with Dr. Richard B. Wetherill recently appeared in the gulf of Mexico. Shut your eyes and you "Lafayette Journal and Courier" of Lafayette, Ind., U.S.A., in which that on the map in the geography. If you well known archaeologist tells of his research work in Yucatan, which probably mean to you no more than brought to light many hitherto unsome little country down toward South known facts, Dr. Wetherill, it will be America-or in South America, you're remembered, was in Newfoundland during July and August of the present clear idea of South America, you feel; year, in company with Col. Lathcop of it is a big triangle, with the Amazon Alabama, and when leaving he ex- river in the north, the Andes mounpressed himself as delighted with our tains in the west, and cattle grazing country and our hospitality and hoped among pampas grasses over the rest of to visit us again. Whilst in St. John's it. It is a new country, we are sure; men who unveil for us the storied myshe was a frequent visitor to the Camp far, far behind us in all matters of deof the C.L.B. Cadets at Topsail, in velopment and civilization in general. which he manifested great interest. That about represents the geograph-

The interview which follows is by ical and historical knowledge of the Helen O. Mahin. Does a globe-trotter never exhaust the possibilities of interest on the face of the earth?-the ever does, he can go beneath it, as long as the life of past ages lies in buried cities ready to be uncovered and revealed there will be thrill and fascination for the most seasoned

every corner of the world that a ivilized man can visit, and some tha cannot so very easily, with the one history and tribal life, piecing to-

He carried on these researches through the years of a very busy practice; and since he retired from practice in 1919 to devote practically all of his time to travel, he has been particularly interested—among other particular interests-in the early civilizations of Mexico and Central and South Amer-

went to Yucatan.

most of us, doesn't it?

been visiting and studying.

Our picture of Central America is

whose ancient cities Dr. Wetherill has

For, as to those slow young back

In January of 1920 Dr. Wetherill SIMONDS CANADA SAW CO., LIMITED, Yucatan is that large knob of land east of Mexico and west of the Isthmus of Panama that reaches up toward Florida, partly shutting in the

South America that were beginning will see it, just as it used to stand out new Those cities are long since buried don't shut your eyes the name will under the silt and soil of ages: in their day they were cut off from all the world as we know it in history: but they carried on life as varied, as not quite sure which. You have a very bright, as full of thrilling interest as any of the eastern hemisphere. Archaeological Study.

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Their cities were built in imperishable stone and archaeologists, thos teries of the past, have been uncovering them for years-long years to us but a bare moment in the light of the ages that went into the making of those cities. One of the most distinguished of these in Prof. Edward H. even more sketchy, but that knob of Thompson, who was sent thirty years home-keeper wonders enviously. If he land reaching up toward Florida ago by the Peabody museum to exstands out quite distinctly. And that cavate the ruins of Yucatan and has top of which stood the temple of the ever since been uncovering tales of serpent where lovely little Noh Ek those far days. Dr. Wetherill has fre- dwelt among the vestals. recently, and for years past as well, quently visited his personally, ex- With the Aztecs and Mayas, too, fea-

any special work that could be don ast year they went together to the mins of Chichan-Itaza, one of the anent cities of Northern Yucatan that Professor Thompson has excavated. There are three ruins of this kind in Yucatan—Chichan-Itza, Uzmal and Mayapan. Of these most is known of Uxmal but Chichan-Itza, by all evidnce, is much older. They are all citles of the Mayas, probably the most ancient of the Central and South Am-

Far back in the mists of past ages cientists tell us, the floor of the Pacific was much higher than to-day in a long line reaching west of South America some 9,000 miles, a line marked now by the archipelagoes of the Polynesian islands; and then the Poly nesians, a beautiful brown race, made their way in boats across the much shorter stretches of water and finally eached the west coast of South Am- drugs, erica. From there they turned north dians, some of whom, traveling around founded the Toltec race and cities, try this?

Because it is safe. into what is now Mexico, long after be old when the Christian era was which in turn, in the course of cycles, founded the Aztecs.

> In the Maya and Aztec Indians of to-day are to be found many of the characteristics of the Polynesiansthe same rather handsome brown faces, refined into great beauty in some of the women, and traces of the same religious customs that are kept by their neighbors across so many miles of Pacific breakers. Whatever their ancestry, they all worshipped the sun and the serpent—the same serpent god of the Hawaiians and the Chinese. Quetzlcoatl, the feathered serpent of the Aztecs, Cuculcan of the Mayas the deity that is still found in the old religions of Hawaii and China. It was

changed for the information gathered there were held to be a mark of no here the result of his own researches bility. The feathered mantle was the ward countries, there were civiliza- among the Ainus on the other side of supreme garb of royalty, and all dei-Dr. Richard B. Wetherii has visit- tions in Mexico and in Central and the world, and given financial support fied figures were endowed with fea-



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our Cough and Cold Cure, because it is composed of pure and harmless and south; those who turned to the cough, but we think we have one that north went up into Yucatan, and be- comes a little nearer to doing it than for years, it has been tried in al manner of cases and given satisfac-tion. We ask you to remember and

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thers. The same custom is found in many of the South Sea islands to-day; in the government museum in Honolulu there is still preserved the feathered cloak which was worn by Hawaiian royalty down to the last of the monarchs, Queen Liliuokalani, And in Central America, just as in the Polynesians and in China, jade was the most

History in Stone.

The story of the Maya cities has to be read in the cities, the architecture, and the implements that are found, and in the stories still told by the Maya Indians, the descendants of that far race-stories that have been handed by word of mouth from parent to child through long generations. There are heiroglyphic records in plenty, but no key has yet been found to decipher them, beyond the identification of places named. For when the Spanish missionaries made Christian of the Indians they taught them that everything having to do with the nast life of their race was of the devil; consequently those who could read the hieroglyphics, either atraid or ashamed of their knowledge, made haste to conceal and forget it.

But the city of Chichan-Itza itself, the City of the Sacred Well, tells its own story. There is the palace with its courts, and the nunnery, and the tennis court. Strange tennis they played, a game that called for all of the skill and self-control of our tennis and basketball and football together. We know something of its rules from a similar game that is played in Central America to-day. On the inner sides of two parallel stone walls 20 feet from the ground, were fixed two stone rings some 3 feet in diameter, forming diagonally posed goals. The ball, which had to be thrown through the ring of the opposing side, could not be touched with the hand, but must be struck with arm, shoulder, knee, or even head. And the contest did not end with the winning of the game, for the winning side were entitled to everything that their opponents wore. raiment and lewels-if they could get it. But, as the losing team took to their heels the instant the hall flew through their ring, it is doubtful whether the victors always obtained the spoils.

Pyramids not Tombs.

And there are the sacred well with ts storied sacrifice and the pyramids, which are nearly always crowned with temples and are never, like those of Egypt, sepulchers. The temple of the serpent stands upon the great pyramid, 200 feet high and built of rubble faced with stone. Up the wide stairway extended the body of Cuculcan, his head-5 feet high-at the foot, where it still lies; his body, long since broken and fallen, undulating with the steps; his tail guarding the temple. "In the city of the Sacred Well, that great silent place of ruins, stands a lofty pyramid crowned by a massive

stone-built temple "Within the temple chamber, on the panelled surface of a square stone pillar, and clad in the rich regalia of a warrior-noble, is carved the majestic

figure of a man." So runs the description of Professor Thompson, who gave Dr. Wetherill the egend to explain the presence of a warrior's statue in a place so strange oration of a warrior. The legend he heard from the lips of a Maya India, perhaps a descendant of one of those who stood at the foot of the pyramid when the dead young Ah May was carried up to the Morning Star, the story that had come across the thousands of years since that far

(This beautiful India legend will be published Monday.)

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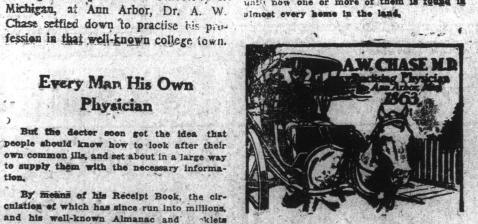
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