

**Pathology of prehistoric man** is an unusual and entertaining, though it be not a practical, subject. For six years, Dr. J. C. Reisner, of the University of California, has been employed in prosecuting excavations for antiquities for a museum the university is about to establish. In the hundreds of cases now being unpacked at the university, and which have been brought from Egypt, where their contents had been deposited 7,000 years antedating the Christian era, are some Coptic mummies, which will, no doubt, prove of interest to the medical profession. It is said the skeletons found were in perfect condition; that they furnish splendid anatomical material for finding out the racial character of the prehistoric people; that the contents of the intestines were so well preserved that even the food and medicines taken could readily be determined; that the diagnosis of the disease causing the death of the person could be determined; and that it could be determined that some had had gall-stones, some kidney disease, whilst others had had diseases of bones. This was 9,000 years ago. These mummies were preserved in salt and were further protected in their sepulture by matting made from halfa grass and woven reeds of the same plant. Thus did the Egyptians conceive the most notable way of integral conservation; for being afraid of fire, but not as a deity, they by precious embalmments, and depository in dry earths, made their remains mummies.

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**Cremation of human bodies**, so far as is known, is only practiced in one place in Canada,—Montreal. Since the Macdonald Crematorium was established in Montreal in 1904, up to the 2nd of April, 1906, thirty-three bodies had been cremated. From the latter date until the end of February, 1907, nineteen more were subjected to the same process of hydriotaphia. Prior to the establishment, the Mount Royal Cemetery Company, of Montreal, had a charter to perform cremation. Their cremations numbered twelve, so that all told up to the end of February, 1907, there had been sixty-four cremations in Canada.