

Pacific Ocean Home of Quakes.

SEVEN OF TEN TERRORS ORIGIN-
ATE IN THAT SEA—TROUGH
IN WATERS.

The recent disturbance in Chile must be reckoned as one of the world's greatest earthquakes, writes Charles Davidson, Sc. D., author of "The Origin of Earthquakes," in the Daily Mail.

To be felt along the coast for more than 1100 miles, to be strong enough to stop clocks in Buenos Ayres, about 900 miles across the continent, the area disturbed by the earthquake must have far exceeded 2,500,000 square miles and have closely approached that affected by the destructive Chinese earthquake of nearly two years ago, probably the most extensive known to us.

In the study of an earthquake, great or small, the main point to be determined, is the position of its origin. This will be definitely known as soon as the records from several distant observatories can be measured and compared.

In the meantime, we have to rely on somewhat scanty data, on our knowledge of the area of greatest damage, on the fact that the shock, as in so many other Peruvian and Chilean earthquakes, was followed soon after by a series of destructive sea waves.

The existence of such waves shows that not only was the origin submarine, but also that the earthquake was accompanied by a marked change of level in the ocean bed—not by such a change as that first reported of 15, 300 to 516 feet, but by one of some few feet only, the greatest known uplift in any earthquake being nearly 48 feet.

The next point of significance is that the damage caused by the earthquake was most serious along a portion of the coast about 200 miles in length, reaching from Coquimbo northward to Copiapo, the town that suffered most of all being Valparaiso, about half way between these places. It is therefore probable that the origin lay some distance out at sea and in the neighborhood of a place directly opposite to Valparaiso.

Along the margins of the Pacific Ocean are some of the most potent earthquake regions in the world. Indeed, viewed on a large scale, the ocean seems to be almost engirdled by these regions.

There is one—large one—to the east of Japan, and, farther south, another which includes the Philippine islands and the Malay archipelago. On the other side of the ocean lies a third zone beginning in Alaska and extending southward.

A fourth reaches from a little north of San Francisco, covers Central America and ends to the south of Colombia; while the fifth, along the western coast of South America, and to it belong the many earthquakes which in times past have ravaged the coast of Chile and Peru.

Out of every 10 world-shaking earthquakes seven originate in the Pacific regions, which are exactly 10 times as productive in great shocks as the corresponding regions of the Atlantic ocean.

The Pacific ocean, unlike the Atlantic, is also remarkable in possessing narrow troughs of immense depth. Off the east coast of Japan lies the Tsuruoka Deep. Its greatest depth is 54 miles, and below its western slope originate many of the greatest of Japanese earthquakes.

The deepest of all, off the Island of Guam, is the Challenger Deep, which sinks nearly six miles below the sea level.

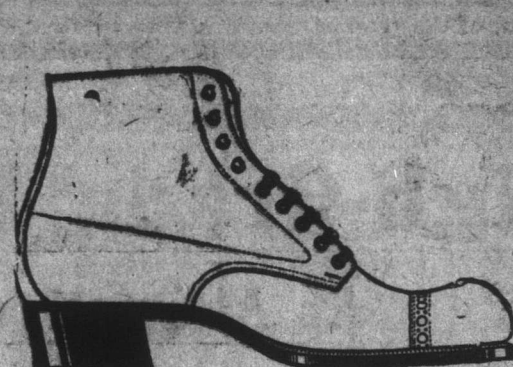
The coasts of Chile and Peru are bordered by a series of these troughs—the Krummel Deep (4½ miles) off Arica, the Bartholomew Deep (four miles) off Arica, the Richards Deep (4½ miles) off Copiapo and the Hackett Deep (3½ miles) off Valparaiso and Santiago. It is along the sloping sides of these troughs that the most destructive Peruvian and Chilean earthquakes originate, and the centre of the recent shock will probably be found not far distant from the southern end of the Richards Deep.

What the connection between the occurrence of earthquakes and a steeply sloping surface may be is less clear than the fact that such a connection does exist. Most of our great earthquake regions are partly or entirely submarine. But there is one that lies on land, extending from Italy across the Balkan peninsula to the Himalayas, in which two out of every 10 world-shaking earthquakes originate.

The central ranges of the Himalayas consist of ancient rocks which have been elevated into the loftiest peaks upon the globe. Bordering them on the south are the sub-Himalayan chains, composed for the most part of recent tertiary beds, and sloping rapidly into the plains of India. The occurrence of great earthquakes, like that which ruined Ganga and Dharmsala in 1905, shows that the growth of the Himalayas is not yet at an end and that the central masses are still, as of old, pressing forward toward the south, crushing and grinding over the advanced guard of tertiary mountains. In the sloping slopes of the Pacific, it would seem that we have but

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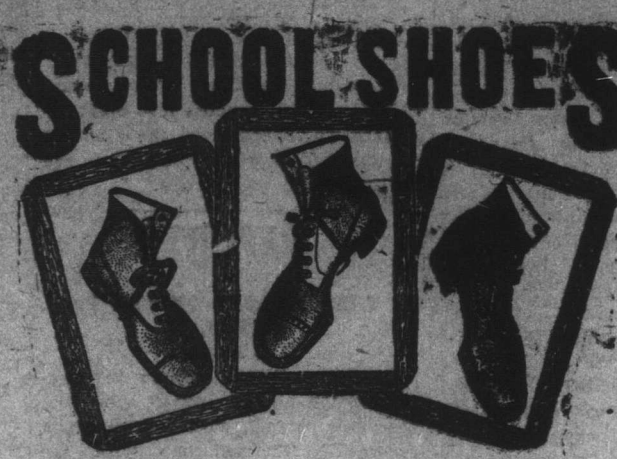


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an earlier stage of a similar structure, and that in the earthquake of Chile and Peru we have from time to time the movement that will culminate in the formation of a new series of mountain ranges.

Babies in Rhodesia Drink, Smoke Pipes.

In Northern Rhodesia, 1900 miles from Cape Town, South Africa, babies are fed on an alcoholic drink similar to beer and are taught to smoke a pipe at the age of 2, according to the Rev. J. R. Fall of the Native Training Institute on Clichy estate, Kafue, in the north of Rhodesia.

"About 75 per cent. of the Rhodesian babies die before they are 2 years old," he said. "This includes those whose parents have assisted them to an early death by keeping them from growing up as a disgrace to the tribe. In America you sometimes hear one ask, 'Why did his parents let him live?' In Rhodesia they don't."

Only One Twin Lives.

"If the baby's lower tooth happens to come in first, instead of an upper one, the Rhodesian parents assume that the spirits are vexed with their offspring and promptly make away with him. Usually only one of twins is permitted to live. 'A hymn got the other,' the mother will tell you when you ask her."

Dr. Fell told how the natives, eat whatever animal they are able to kill in the hunt, including field mice, frogs and crocodiles in their menu. Each clan is named after an animal, which animal thereafter they must not eat. Chickens, which exist in plenty in the region, are not considered fit to eat.

Dr. Fell found that one of his hardest tasks was to teach the Rhodesians to bathe. A new born infant received a first bath, which was also its last. For the rest of his life, the Rhodesian performed his ablutions by anointing himself with oil and plastering himself with red clay, according to the traveler. The Rhodesians plaster the hair in a thick crest with clay or beeswax and stud it with brass nails.

"My insistence that the natives take daily baths caused general consternation at first," he said. "The natives had never heard of washing one's teeth. We raise our own toothbrushes; they are made of a fibrous plant with one end flattened to serve as a handle."

Take Out Upper Teeth.

Dr. Fell said he was endeavoring to dissuade the Rhodesians from continuing a custom of removing from

four to six upper front teeth of a child as soon as they appeared. This is accomplished with an axe, a collection of relatives holding the struggling youngster while the rite is being performed. They believe that failing to do this would result in a boy being ashamed of his tribe or a girl never marrying.

Everybody wants to marry in Rhodesia, the people believing that one's spirit remains alive only as long as his children and his children's children bring food to the grave. It is therefore essential to provide for future food bearers.

"The ambitious Rhodesian aspires to marry the fattest girl in the village," Dr. Fell said. "Fatness constitutes the Rhodesian's ideal of beauty in a girl. Three months before the wedding day the girl goes to what is known as the fattening hut, where she proceeds to take no exercise and eats as much as she can force herself to eat. After she is married it doesn't matter about her looks. She then shaves her head, forgets about avoirdupois and in general is careless for ever afterwards about her appearance. Her name is changed as often as a baby is born. She is known as the

mother of so-and-so—whatever happens to be the latest child."

Dr. Fell said that the institute had 4000 acres of the Clichy estate. Here an average class of 100 young men were in training. When they were graduated they returned to their villages and passed on the information they had learned to the people.

Germany's Gentle Poor Sell Their Old Finery.

BERLIN, April 22.—(A.P.)—Thousands of German gentlewomen are now going through the tragedy which Tuscan women of the same class have suffered for several years. Widows of officers and government officials, women with small pensions and limited incomes from investments, find themselves unable to buy the plainest food with their depreciated marks.

A few days ago the aged widow of a once prominent physician and her invalid daughter were found almost dead from hunger in their home, which had been stripped of every saleable article. The mother had done needlework as long as she was able. She was too proud to ask charity, and the doctors who were called by neighbors to attend her said both the mother and daughter, if left alone, would have been dead in another 24 hours.

In an effort to alleviate the condition of such persons and protect them from unscrupulous second-hand dealers, a number of philanthropic Berlin women have organized a fair where second-hand articles may be offered for sale. The owners may act as their own sales-agents, or entrust their wares to representatives of the committee.

With German efficiency the members of the relief committee have provided tables behind which the sellers have chairs. They are mostly elderly women. Many of them are crippled, and almost without exception their worn and old-fashioned clothing indicates their gentle birth. A few very old men sit among the women, and scarcely any of the vendors are young enough to do any manual labor. Thus they sit, day after day, waiting the chance to exchange the sherry of by-gone days in to fuel and food for to-day.

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