

toad, tapir. Of shells, two species of *Io*, seven of *Unio*, two of *Paludina* and *Trypanostoma* were found. Most important of all, in the opinion of the explorer, were remains of the peccary and tapir. Teeth of the latter, the speaker stated, were found so near the bottom of the deposit that they may have belonged to the lower alluvial strata, and not to the period of the human remains. In the discussion on the paper President Brinton stated that the tapir was commonly regarded as a South American animal, but that within our century it had been observed as far north as the Isthmus of Teotihuacan, and that it was not necessary to take refuge in the theory that the teeth of the tapir belonged to the lowest strata, as it is not unlikely that the tapir existed in the Gulf States within a comparatively recent time. Mr. Mercer gave an account of an Indian ossuary that he found in a rift in the Lookout Cave, and exhibited specimens of charred femurs and the fragment of a pierced gorget, with stone arrow points from this deposit. In conclusion, he urged the importance of a thorough exploration of the caves of the entire country as likely to settle the question of early man in America. Dr. Brinton did not think the absence of objects of a primitive type in caves as conclusive with reference to the absence of primitive man. Early man was probably arboreal, and did not live in caves at all. According to the best French archaeologists, the man of the river drift was older than the cave man, and his bones are associated with remains of a fauna that required a tropical climate for their development. The fossil remains from the explorations were exhibited at the close of the meeting.

—It is with deepest regret that we announce the destruction by fire of the new Engineering Laboratory at Purdue University, LaFayette, Ind. It was burned on the night of Jan. 23—four days after its dedication. The fire originated in the boiler room and spread with great rapidity. Its progress could not be checked until the

larger part of a fine building had been destroyed. Three laboratory rooms were burned; the machine room with its twenty lathes, its planers, shapers, drill presses, milling machines, and its large supply of small tools; the forge room with its thirty-two power forges; and the laboratory for advanced work, which contains Purdue's now famous locomotive "Schenectady," a triple expansion Corliss engine and much other apparatus designed for work in steam engineering, hydraulics, and strength of materials. Nothing in these rooms escaped the fire. Not only was all the apparatus lost but also a large amount of experimental data. The main portion of the building was also consumed. This contained three stories, 50 feet by 150 feet. It was occupied by drawing rooms, recitation and lecture rooms, instrument rooms, offices and a mechanical museum. Some of the furniture and apparatus in these rooms was carried out before the fire took possession, but, as already stated, this part of the building was entirely burned. The only portion still standing comprises the wood room and foundry. These rooms were not damaged except by the temporary removal of the more portable portion of their equipment. The incidental losses by the fire are considerable. Members of the faculty have lost books, papers and data; students, their instruments, and manufacturers, in every part of the country, who, by gifts or liberal discounts, had coöperated in the equipment of the building, have lost their representation there. The excellent facilities for laboratory training which Purdue has been able to offer have made her engineering departments well known and have helped to draw to them a large number of students. It is hoped and expected that the new building will be quite as extensive and its equipment quite as complete as were the building and equipment which have been lost, and, since experience has suggested the modification of many details, it is but reasonable to expect the second plant to be better than the first.

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