

than were known when he enlisted. The cause is the liberation of the race from the bonds of superstition and ignorance and it is a glorious one. The contest began before the genus *homo sapiens* came into existence. Countless generations have served their time, some well, some ill, and have passed into oblivion, but their partial victories have made you stronger and placed on you a greater responsibility. Your intelligence is greater, your judgment is sounder and your effectiveness has been increased. Where the past has failed or only partially succeeded, your success will be greater. But the battlements of ignorance still bristle with heavy-fire guns. Only a few of the outposts of the enemy have been captured. It is for you to do and then like all your predecessors to die. You stand to-day within the firing-line. Go on courageously and when eons of the future have become the past, the superman, born out of the struggles of his predecessors, will demolish the last citadel of ignorance and vice, and firmly plant on the highest peak of the mountain of knowledge the flag of human progress and when the silken banner shall unfold, there shall appear on it this legend:

Pro gloria omnium nationum et hominum honore.

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A FOSSIL HUMAN SKELETON FROM GERMAN EAST AFRICA

At a meeting of the *Gesellschaft naturforschender Freunde* in Berlin on March 17, 1914, Dr. Hans Reck made a preliminary report on a discovery that is of special interest to anthropologists. Dr. Reck was attached to a geological expedition that had been sent out to survey a parallel running through the northern end of German East Africa, as well as to collect for the Geologic-Paleontologic Institute of the University of Berlin and the Paleontological Museum at Munich.

The discovery in question was made in Oldoway hollow or gorge on the eastern margin of the Serengeti steppe. The Oldoway gorge lays bare a series of tufaceous layers that had been deposited in a freshwater lake. Five deposits can be distinguished stratigraphically as well as paleontologically. In the lowest deposit fossil remains are rare, the chief specimen being a part of a rhinoceros skeleton. The second deposit is rich in fossil mammalian remains, including the human skeleton. Remains of two types of fossil elephant, both different from the living *Elephas africanus*, were especially abundant; the skull of a hippopotamus was also found in deposit number two. Bones of the antelope appear for the first time in the third deposit, which also contains bones of the elephant. Elephant remains are dominant in the fourth deposit; fish bones are also abundant. The fifth and latest of the deposits is the richest of all in fossils. It is characterized by an antelope and gazelle fauna similar to that now living on the Serengeti steppe. In this deposit Reck found no elephant remains.

The change in fauna represented by the series corresponds to a change in climate. The climate of the upper horizon was similar to that of to-day; while the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, crocodile, and fish of the lower horizons bespeak a damp woodland climate that was probably synchronous with the Würm glacial epoch in Europe.

The human skeleton, as has been said, came from the next to the lowest horizon (No. 2). It is not only in a good state of preservation, but is likewise practically complete. The skeleton was found some three or four meters below the rim of the Oldoway gorge, which here is about fifty meters deep. The skeleton bore the same relation to the stratified bed as did the other mammalian remains and was dug out of the hard clay tuff with hammer and chisel just as these were. In other words the conditions of the find were such as to exclude the possibility of an interment. The human bones are therefore as old as the deposit (No. 2).

An attempt to determine the age of the

human skeleton with any degree of accuracy must of course wait upon a further study of the geologic and paleontologic data as well as on a more thoroughgoing somatologic study of the skeleton itself. Dr. Reck is, however, already convinced that it antedates the so-called alluvial or recent period. The thickness of the deposits indicates a considerable lapse of time, especially when one recalls that at least two of the superposed deposits were laid down before the faulting occurred, and with it the drying up of the lake. The change in fauna from rhinoceros, hippopotamus and two types of elephant both different from the living African elephant, to a gazelle and antelope fauna is likewise proof of considerable antiquity. Judging from the photograph of the skeleton still in situ, the man of Oldoway gorge did not belong to the Neandertal, but rather to the Aurignacian type of man. In the absence, however, of industrial remains and even photographs in detail, any pronouncement as to racial affinities with known European Quaternary human remains would be merely a guess.

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THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

A STATEMENT has been given out from the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research to the effect that in order that further opportunities may be afforded for the more complete investigation of the nature and causes of human disease and methods of its prevention and treatment, Mr. John D. Rockefeller has just donated \$2,550,000 to the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Of the sum just donated a part will be utilized to purchase additional land in New York City so that the Institute will have acquired the entire tract where its buildings are now located, between Sixty-fourth and Sixty-seventh Streets on Avenue A, extending through to East River—about four acres. The remainder will be used to erect and equip additional laboratories, buildings, and plant,

and to insure the proper maintenance and conduct of the extended work.

This gift of \$2,550,000 is in addition to a special fund of \$1,000,000 which Mr. Rockefeller has provided in order that the institute may establish a Department of Animal Pathology. Dr. Theobald Smith, now professor of comparative pathology in Harvard Medical School, is to become director of the new department.

It will be the purpose of this branch of the institute's work to give special attention to the study of maladies such as hog cholera, foot and mouth disease, and diseases of poultry, which are of such immediate and practical concern to farmers, and the elimination of which is so important. This will be the first enterprise of this kind upon an adequate basis to be established in this country. The results of its work should eventually be of great value in improving the health of cattle and other farm animals.

Mr. Rockefeller's previous gifts to the institute had amounted to practically \$9,000,000, exclusive of real estate in New York City, so that the endowment of the institute will now approximate \$12,500,000.

The Rockefeller Institute will, with the new gift, now become the most amply endowed institution for medical research in the world. In 1902, when the institute was founded, there was not a single undertaking of the kind in this country. England had the Lister Institute, Germany the Institute for Infectious Diseases, France the Pasteur Institute and Russia the Royal Military Institute at St. Petersburg. Since 1902 a number of other research laboratories have been established in this country, including several in Chicago.

In addition to the laboratories there is connected with the institute a hospital with every improved facility for the treatment of patients afflicted with diseases at the time under special investigation. For the treatment and study of contagious diseases—a most important phase of the institute work—there is a separate building with isolated rooms.

The aims of the Rockefeller Institute and the lines along which its future work—upon