

sterdam. In no week did the births in Leipzig approach within 100 those in Amsterdam. Dresden, with a population of 579,536, compared with Amsterdam's 626,470, had in the first of the weeks mentioned 118 births compared with 255 in Amsterdam, the deaths in that week being exactly the same—namely, 126. The highest number of births in Dresden in the weeks mentioned was 142 and the lowest number of deaths 103, while the highest number of deaths was 198.

ANCIENT DWELLINGS IN NAVAHO NATIONAL MONUMENT, ARIZONA

MR. NEIL M. JUDD, of the United States National Museum, has left for Arizona to supervise for the Smithsonian Institution the excavation and repair of prehistoric ruins and cliff dwellings. The work will be carried on under a provision in the Indian Appropriation Act, Interior Department, for the preservation and repair of the remains of ancient dwelling places of certain American aborigines in the Navaho National Monument.

According to a bulletin of the Smithsonian Institution the Navaho National Monument comprises three large ruins located in the northern part of the Navaho Reservation, in Arizona, about 175 miles by trail north of Flagstaff. There is a road for about a third of the way, but there is little traffic from its termination to the Navaho Monument. From there the way is difficult to travel also on account of the scarcity of water in the desert to be crossed, the lack of opportunity to purchase supplies, and the steepness of the ascent near the monument which is truly in the "High Rocks," as the Hopi designate the location of their former home.

The trip requires about five days, but the route is an interesting one, for it passes through Painted Desert, a picturesque country especially attractive on account of the native legends and descriptions relating to the surroundings. Superstition Mountain, for example, where, so the Navaho stories relate, fires are to be seen on dark nights, recalls the old Snake legend which claims that all this country once belonged to the Fire God, and that they inherited it from him. In the olden

days, so they relate, the inhabitants used to see lights moving around the mesas. Journeying over the recent lava beds and cinder plains to-day, it is easy for the traveller to accept the story of the early proprietorship of this burnt-out country, and attribute the fires seen there to volcanic eruptions and the glowing lava of years ago, which is quite enough to substantiate the legend. Among the fantastically eroded rocks, forming natural sculptures along the trail, are Elephant Legs, and White Mesa Natural Bridge, which lend interest en route to the Monument, as does also the Indian Village where still dwell descendants of the early inhabitants.

The ancient pueblo and cliff dwellings were first scientifically examined in 1908, by a party of which Mr. Judd was a member, led by Professor Byron Cummings, formerly of the University of Utah and now of the University of Arizona. They are supposed to be the ruins of dwellings made by the Snake people whose descendants live to-day in Hopi villages in northeastern Arizona. Some of the houses built in the cliffs are very large, measuring several hundred feet in length and include as many as a hundred rooms. Naturally, some of the original rooms are buried in fallen debris but their excavation and repair is to be carried out between now and the end of June, by Mr. Judd and his party.

The only human beings living in the neighborhood of these ruins is an Indian trader, and a few Navahos who are very superstitious. None of them will dig in the ruins fearing to evoke the wrath of the spirits of the dead, so Mr. Judd will be forced to engage white laborers at Flagstaff, probably six in number and a cook, relying on the native Navahos only for trail-making and the transportation of his supplies and building materials to the ruin where the work is to be done.

THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

FROM an account in *The Englishman*, Calcutta, we learn that the fourth annual meeting of the Indian Science Congress opened on January 10 in Bangalore. A large and distinguished gathering of scientific men from