

construction and organization of this school shall be, according to the decree, undertaken at once by the governor general so that the necessary funds will be forthcoming as provided for by this law.

At the seventeenth annual meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science, held at Greensboro on April 26 and 27, Dr. E. W. Gudger, after ten years' service as secretary-treasurer, was made president for the next year. The other officers elect are: *vice-president*, Professor H. B. Arbuckle, Davidson College; *secretary-treasurer*, Mr. Bert Cunningham, Trinity College; additional members *executive committee*; Rev. George W. Lay, St. Mary's School; Professor Gertrude W. Mendenhall, State Normal College and Professor J. J. Wolfe, Trinity College.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made the following appropriations: Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., \$100,000; Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C., \$100,000, and Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C., \$75,000. The board granted \$195,000 for state agents for negro rural schools and for the annual maintenance of negro schools in the south. It also appropriated \$14,000 for farm demonstration work in Maine and New Hampshire.

At the University of Kentucky Dr. C. A. Shull, of the University of Kansas, has been appointed head of the department of botany; Dr. C. B. Cornell, of the University of Nebraska, assistant professor of education, and W. D. Funkhauser (Ph.D., Cornell) head of the department of zoology.

At the University of Chicago, the following promotions have been made: To a professorship, Preston Keyes, anatomy; to associate professorships: Herman I. Schlesinger and Jean Piccard, chemistry; to assistant professorships: Gerald L. Wendt, chemistry; Charles C. Colby, geography, and Morris M. Wells, zoology; to instructorships: Merle C. Coulter, botany; Carl Richard Moore, zoology.

At the University of Michigan Associate Professor Arthur J. Decker has been promoted to be professor of sanitary engineering. Walter C. Drury has been made instructor in sanitary engineering.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ON THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN IN AMERICA

It is not from choice that the writer again ventures to take part in the controversy regarding the antiquity of man in America, but the reported discovery of remains of man associated with those of fossil animals of Pleistocene age at Vero, Florida, has reopened the question of antiquity and presents such possibilities of erroneous interpretation that I feel impelled to offer a word of caution.

The American aborigines as known to us have occupied every available part of the continent from the Arctic to the Antarctic throughout the long but illy defined period known as the Recent, and their osseous remains and the relics of their handicraft have become associated with unconsolidated superficial deposits by burial, and by the changes, often very profound, which take place everywhere through the action of wind, water and gravity and especially along stream courses; and in the passage of the centuries and millenniums it is patent that the relations of human remains and relics of all classes have been subject not only to minor but often radical changes in their relation to one another and to the original formations and surface of the occupied areas.

The full significance of these conditions is seldom realized or but imperfectly recognized by those who seek the early traces of man's presence and who venture to reckon the period of his arrival. The stream, for example, that meandered a valley or plain thousands of years ago may ere this have rearranged the materials of large areas along its course. Its channel may have worn its way back and forth over miles of territory, yet the formations thus effected may be so reset, though largely at reduced levels, as to obliterate traces of disturbance. Changes in the chronologic rela-

tion of inclusions in sloping and rolling country may have been similarly effected without leaving distinguishable traces. It is the failure to recognize these important considerations that has led in many cases to the confident and regrettable announcements on the part of students respecting the original association of human remains with the remains of fossil animals of the earlier periods.

It is not the Vero evidence, however, which requires particular attention at this time, since the interpretations favoring great antiquity are fully offset by the interpretations of anthropologists of long experience in the consideration of problems of the history of man in the world and the evidence relating thereto, but because questions of wide range have been opened through the revamping by Dr. Hay of a large body of so-called evidence of geological antiquity which has long been discredited and relegated to the historic scrap heap where it should still remain.<sup>1</sup>

There is a peculiar and very strong fascination in the idea of hoary antiquity and on the part of many students a disposition to discover parallels between the early events of human history in the old and new worlds, and the gathering of data bearing on these ideas becomes an obsession. Had certain of our archeologists in past decades not met with strenuous opposition glacial man in America would long ago have been fully "established." We should now have in our museums large collections of American paleolithic implements duplicating in nearly every respect the paleoliths of Europe and no end of bones of Pleistocene man and if now such views as those of Dr. Hay are allowed to prevail we shall have to accept the conclusion that American man had advanced to the pottery-making stage in the middle or early Pleistocene, and that after the lapse of a vast period the art was revived by the same or another people using the same materials, employing similar methods and attaining identical results in the same region—a marvel without parallel in the history of man.

<sup>1</sup> *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), Vol. 20, No. 1.

It is manifestly a serious duty of the archeologist and the historian of man to continue to challenge every reported discovery suggesting the great geological antiquity of the race in America and to expose the dangerous ventures of little experienced or biased students in a field which they have not made fully their own.

Dr. Hay has published a map giving locations of finds of traces of man attributed to the Pleistocene, these in cases being associated more or less intimately with remains of *Elephas imperator*. But this association is open to different interpretations and I feel justified in raising the danger signal in each and every case since, if left alone, lamentable errors may become fixtures on the pages of history. I therefore hasten to relabel the map "Danger Signals for the Student of Human History."

I do not wish for a moment to stand in the way of legitimate conclusions in this or any other field of research, but illegitimate determinations have been insinuating themselves into the sacred confines of science and history with such frequency and persistence that no apology is required for these words of caution.

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#### NOTE ON SUDAN III

THE toxicity of this dye, used so extensively in the study of problems connected with fat metabolism and vital staining, is a question of considerable importance; on this account a preliminary notice is presented of the finding that the preparations now on the market are of very doubtful purity.

Mendel and Daniels once stated that large doses of this dye fed to cats were harmless, provided the dye was pure. A preparation put up by an American manufacturer was given by them in large doses to two cats, which subsequently died within a comparatively short time, apparently from the effect of some impurity in the dye.

Some years later Salant & Bengis in their pharmacological study of fat soluble dyes stated that rabbits fed 1.7 gm. per kilo died in