

responsible institutions that some control be exercised before its results are exhibited in international journals, and preferably before they are at all presented in print.

Although not directly belonging to the subject, it is hard to refrain from quoting a last oddity found in the bunch of papers referred to above. Harmless as it is, it is instructive by illustrating once more the surprising linguistic illiteracy which can be found in scientific papers. In a publication from Georgia, one finds a printed slip of paper with corrections, one of which reads: "p. 11: 'Vitality' should be 'virility.'" Looking up the page, it appears that no other organisms are mentioned than bacteria, which can not well be virile according to common ideas on the subject. Possibly "virility" was the author's version of "virulence," in his younger days.

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RECENT FIND OF MAMMOTH REMAINS IN THE QUATERNARY OF FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH ARROW- HEAD

In September, 1931, Miss Thelma Van Buskirk, a student in Rollins College, brought to the museum a tusk and a tooth found by her brother, Mr. Allen Van Buskirk, a U. S. Government official, during his inspection of canal dredging near Flagler Beach, Florida. These fossils were determined as mastodon remains on basis of illustrations and descriptions in literature, especially Osborn's (1923) "Mastodons and Mammoths of North America." Photographs were made and sent to the Smithsonian Institution, which kindly confirmed the zoological determination.¹

At my request, Mr. Van Buskirk kindly accompanied me to the spot where he had obtained the objects, and stated that a friend had recently struck some bones near-by while plowing.

Arrangements were immediately made with the owner of the property, Mr. Ed. Johnson, for Rollins College to continue excavations in search of further possible fossils.

About three hundred feet from the point in the canal where the mastodon remains were found, and about ten paces from the point where the plow struck bones, a party of eight² started to excavate. Various fossils, as will be described later, were found before much more than a cubic yard of material was removed. Suddenly a large, hard object was located about two and one half feet below the soil surface. In attempting to free this structure, which was entirely under water in the hole that was made, it became necessary to work around and under it with the bare hands; in this manual exploration, a cavity was felt in the surface directed at the time away from the soil surface (*i.e.*, downward). This cavity proved to be large enough to permit the insertion of my hand, thus making possible the careful withdrawal of its wet, loose content. This content contained an arrow-head; the material of which it was made was later determined by Professor J. E. Spurr as chert.

The large object in question, upon being removed, proved to be a pair of lower jaws, each jaw bearing a large tooth. This structure was determined (on basis of comparison with similar local museum material and with literature) as being remains of a mammoth.¹

The geological formation immediately underlying the horizon in which the fossils occur was determined by J. E. Spurr as a shell marl of late quaternary age; the fossils themselves occur in sandy layers mixed with much organic (vegetable) material.

In addition to the foregoing, one complete needle-like object, and three broken pieces of similar nature, were found from one to seven feet away from, and in the same layer with, the mammoth jaw. These will be described more in detail later.

Excavations are being continued by the students, as time permits, in the hope of obtaining additional data which may possibly prove of value in connection with the question as to the antiquity of man on this continent.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

A METHOD FOR THE DISARTICULATION OF SKULL BONES

HAVING need of a disarticulated cat skull, the method of filling the skull with dried peas and soaking was resorted to, but repeated trials gave unsatis-

factory results. Perhaps due to unequally distributed pressure, the parietals and occipitals were pushed off as a group and the pressure was thus released before complete disarticulation could occur.

It was conceived that some method which would

¹ Later, this determination was concurred in independently by W. W. Holmes, C. W. Stiles, Gene Stirling, and J. H. Chase.

² A professor, Dr. Frank Guy Armitage, six students, Harold Cochenour, Guilford Galbraith, Daniel Havens, Robert Maclay, Douglas Riggs, and Jack Connery, and one visitor, Kenneth Wooldridge.