

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

HUMAN REMAINS DISCOVERED BY THE  
BRITISH EAST AFRICAN EXPEDITION

A CONFERENCE was called by the Royal Anthropological Institute on March 18 and 19 to discuss the early human remains recently discovered by the East African Expedition of Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, and to examine the material which is now assembled in Cambridge. *Nature* reports that after hearing Dr. Leakey's exposition of his discoveries, and a general discussion of questions arising therefrom, the conference appointed committees to report, respectively, on the geological, paleontological, anatomical and archeological evidence.

The committee on paleontology reported that Kanam East and Kanam West exhibit differences only in the relative numbers of the fossils of different groups. With the human jaw at Kanam West were found close relatives of the two types of rhinoceros still living in the region, a small hippopotamus, a pig, an antelope, fragments of mastodon, two teeth of a very large deinotherium and remains of *Trionyx*. In Kanam East the collection consists chiefly of mastodon with a primitive elephant, deinotherium, and a few specimens of hippopotamus, rhinoceros, horse and a young monkey.

The fossils from Kanjera have a later aspect. One elephant has dental plates as deep as those of *E. antiquus*, and all the remains of elephant are of Asiatic or European type. At least two antelopes, *Hylaeochærus*, *Phacochærus*, and a large pig distinct from that of Kanam West, have a very modern appearance. A baboon is remarkable for its comparatively short face. One equine upper molar approaches *Hipparion*, if it does not actually belong to that genus. Typical *Equus* also occurs. Fragments of mastodon, rhinoceros, a giraffoid, hippopotamus and a carnivore have also been found.

The committee thinks that the Kanam deposit should be referred to the Lower Pleistocene, in which the deinotherium and mastodon are survivals from the Upper Pliocene. It also thinks that the Kanjera fauna can not be later than the Middle Pleistocene.

The conference, according to *Nature*, after detailed discussion and after receiving supplementary information furnished by Dr. Leakey and Mr. McInnes as to the circumstances of their discoveries, accepted the reports; congratulated Dr. Leakey on the exceptional significance of his discoveries, and expressed the hope that he may be enabled to undertake further researches, seeing that there is no field of archeological inquiry which offers greater prospects for the future. It especially urged the early organization of another expedition. The following were present and concurred

in the above conclusions: Sir Arthur Smith Woodward (*chairman*), A. L. Armstrong, H. Balfour, Miss D. M. A. Bate, P. G. H. Boswell, M. C. Burkitt, V. G. Childe, L. C. G. Clarke, W. L. H. Duckworth, H. J. Fleure, C. Forster Cooper, V. E. Fuchs, A. C. Haddon, A. T. Hopwood, O. T. Jones, Sir Albert Kitson, L. S. B. Leakey, D. McInnes, E. H. Minns, J. Reid Moir, J. L. Myres, T. G. Mollison, F. Oswald, K. S. Sandford, R. A. Smith, W. J. Sollas, J. D. Solomon, Miss M. L. Tildesley and D. M. S. Watson.

## THE MORRIS ARBORETUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania will share in a collection of more than 30,000 mounted botanical specimens from eastern Asia as a result of its participation in a botanical expedition which has been at work there under the direction of Dr. Joseph F. Rock, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

According to Dr. Rodney H. True, professor of botany at the university and director of the arboretum, in addition, the seed of several hundred varieties of Oriental plants, many of which offer possibilities of reproduction in this country, will also come to the arboretum from the Rock expedition.

Of the collection made by Dr. Rock, who has been agricultural explorer in the office of foreign plant introduction of the Department of Agriculture since 1920, only about one third has thus far been classified.

These classified specimens, which include more than five hundred rhododendrons, one hundred and fifty primulas, and many varieties of lilies, magnolias and the poppy-like *mecanopsis*, were found near the headwaters of the Irrawaddy River, in the province of Tsurong west of the Kaaker range, along the upper Salween River, and in other districts chiefly in southeastern Tibet. The remaining two thirds of the specimens, as yet unclassified, have been collected in a wide area which includes in general the region between the Yangtze and Mekong Rivers and a section north of Muli. This latter section hitherto had been untouched in botanical explorations.

In addition to the Morris Arboretum, the shareholders in Dr. Rock's expedition include the Arnold Arboretum, of Boston; the New York Botanical Garden; the Edinburgh Botanical Garden; H. D. MacLaren, of Bodnant, Wales; the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, and the University of California.

The material collected is being sent to the University of California where it is being assembled and