

commercial quarter, with shops of a wine or oil seller, corn chandler and a weaver containing many of the appurtenances of their trades.

What proved, however, to be the most extensive and, in some ways, the most important discovery of the season, was made in the western valley in continuation of work begun two years ago. Here in a little-disturbed, small circular tomb lined with plaster was a collection of objects in number such as is rarely found in so small a space. From this were taken two hundred pots, of which fifty-three were types new to Tell Duweir. The most interesting was a censer, which in paste and finish recalls the famous Tell Duweir ewer on which was the inscription in the early Palestinian alphabetic script. This censer has lugs and a flat cover, on the upper side of which is an incised decoration with tree or plant motif in a hatched border, and on the under side a further example of the early script.

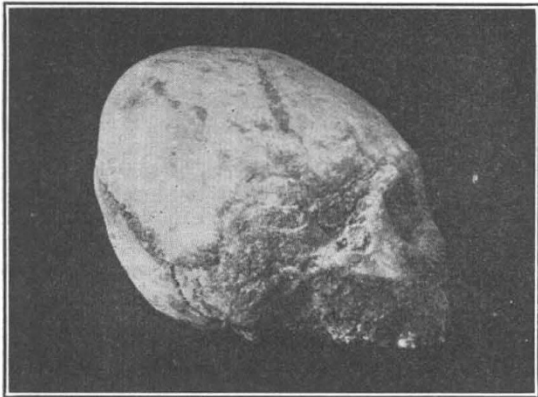


Photo Ralph Richmond Brown
 FIG. 1. Artificially deformed skull from Tell Duweir. By courtesy of the Wellcome Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East.

The tomb itself, as is shown by a number of scarabs, dates from 1400 to 1300 B.C. or even 1275 B.C. Among the objects found are a long-tanged bronze dagger of Eighteenth Dynasty type, bronze lance and sporting arrow heads, and faience draughtsmen with plaques from the gaming board. In an adjacent larger sepulchral chamber the upper levels were a mass of rubbish, possibly from the Assyrian occupation, but the lower levels were composed of a conglomerate of human skeletal remains, of which the condition suggests that they may have been thrown through a hole in the roof—the door on the west side was found still blocked—as salvage from the buildings, when the city was sacked by Sennacherib in 701 B.C.

This skeletal material will afford valuable evidence of the physical characters of the early inhabitants of Palestine, especially as a remnant of the Canaanitish population may have lingered on at Lachish. Even more interesting is the fact that, in addition to head wounds, several of the skulls show a number of pathological conditions. Some have been artificially deformed (Fig. 1) and show such elongation in the occipital region that they resemble in shape the form of head familiar in the representations of Akhenaton; others have been trephined. Of these latter, two examples, instead of the more usual circular operation, have had a square section of bone, about an inch across, removed by sawing cuts, which intersect. This method, known in the Inca skulls from South America, is new to the ancient civilization of the Old World.

Educational Topics and Events

BELFAST.—Dr. W. H. McCrea, at present reader in mathematics in the University of London, has been appointed to the chair of mathematics in the Queen's University.

READING.—Under the will of the late Dr. Alfred Palmer, who died on May 20 last, the University has benefited by a valuable bequest of freehold property. It includes the main buildings of St. Andrew's Hall, the largest of the University's halls of residence for women students; a house known as "Summerbrook", near the main University site, which serves as the headquarters for the advisory officers of the Southern Agricultural Province; two houses used by Wessex Hall, another of the University's halls of residence for women students; four houses adjoining the main University site and used for general University purposes. The properties, which have hitherto been held on lease by the University, have been bequeathed free of duty.

Mr. Gerald E. H. Palmer has been elected a member of the University Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Alfred Palmer.

Mr. G. T. H. Kimble has been appointed lecturer in geography.

SHEFFIELD.—The following appointments have recently been made: Mr. N. S. Boulton, as lecturer in civil engineering; Mr. W. S. Milner (at present assistant lecturer), to be lecturer in electrical engineering; Mr. W. Skyrme Rees, as demonstrator in anatomy.

"ACADEMIC FREEDOM" continues to form the subject of much anxious discussion in America. The president of the University of California in a recent speech on "Problems of an American University" (*School and Society*, May 30) declared that more and more in the last year or two his university has felt, in common with others, the pressure of special groups, and he drew a lamentable picture of what the loss of freedom has meant to the universities of Germany, Italy and Russia. In these countries, "to-day there are no universities—only names and shells from which the spirit has departed. In each of these totalitarian States, universities have become the agents, the adjuncts, the subordinates of the State". In the same journal in which this speech is reported appears a letter from the president of the University of Minnesota referring to the increasing amount of control the Federal Government is exercising over the schools of the country, and to the necessity of keeping the schools and universities free from dictation by pressure groups and from regimentation by Government agencies. In the preceding issue, Prof. Thomas Woody, of the University of Pennsylvania, writes of the "hysterical efforts to create loyal citizens by legislative fiat" in recent attempts to pass laws to keep history "pure", and to regulate and restrict the teaching of science. "Even more serious in its ultimate possibilities for the suppression of freedom of the schools and colleges of the nation is the present obsession with respect to loyalty oaths for teachers". He proceeds to examine at length the grounds on which the requirement of such oaths (now prescribed in nineteen States) has been defended.