

The Names of Early Man

SEVERAL publications during the past year have provided some guidance to the nomenclature of the fossil Hominidae. Dr. K. P. Oakley's *Frameworks for Dating Fossil Man* was the first to gather together some of the plethora of names that have accumulated around the finds of early man and his immediate family. Dr. Michael Day's *Guide to Fossil Man* indicated in greater detail some of the often confusing terminology used in published discussions on the physical relationships between these finds, some of which, by their fragmentary nature, were incapable of any degree of precise definition. Most recently has appeared *The Nomenclature of the Hominidae*, by Bernard G. Campbell (Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. Occasional Paper No. 22. Pp. v + 34. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1965. 10s.). In this, he presents a full list of the nomina proposed for fossil hominid finds of Pleistocene age, and a review of these which establishes that a number of the existing names are invalid on the basis of the revised edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. Some idea of the complexity of the problem may be gained from the fact that sixty Pleistocene specimens have been made the types of new hominid taxa; these correctly include nineteen new genera and fifty-five new species and subspecies, with forty-four names which are synonyms, and twenty-one invalid names. The result is that almost every important fossil find is a distinct named species, and clearly this must disguise the varying degrees of relationships that must have existed within the general evolution of mankind. The recent finds of fossil man from Africa, Europe and Asia combine with the old to present a quite remarkable series of specimens falling within a broad distribution in time and space, and any future finds will improbably create new species, although they may extend the known habitat of man in early or mid-Pleistocene times; the recent finds at Vértesszöllös in Hungary are important in this respect. The author may have been rash in prophesying the dismissal of the ten new hominid taxa created since 1955, but without doubt his paper represents an important advance in the control of hominid nomenclature.

Guide to Poisons and Therapeutic Substances

THE new (eighth) edition of the *Poisons and T.S.A. Guide* incorporates all the relevant changes that have come into effect since the publication of the previous edition in August 1964 (*Poisons and T.S.A. Guide for Pharmacists in Retail and Hospital Practice*. Pp. 234. London: The Pharmaceutical Press, 1965. 10s.). The new requirements of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1965, and the Dangerous Drugs (No. 2) Regulations, 1964, so far as they affect retail and hospital pharmacists, are explained, and the three separate classes of dangerous drugs are now clearly indicated in the Extended Poisons List. The *Guide* also includes the many changes in the classification of poisons brought about by the Poisons (No. 2) Rules, 1964, and the Poisons List Order, 1965, and Poisons Rules, 1965. Included for the first time is a short summary of the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1964, which makes unauthorized possession of certain substances, other than dangerous drugs, an offence. Such substances are now specially marked in the Extended Poisons List. Also new is the information on the supply of animal medicines to farmers, the information on animal feeding-stuffs containing poisons and therapeutic substances, and on antibiotics for horticultural purposes and for preserving raw fish. The explanatory text of the *Guide* has been completely rearranged, and the conditions for supply of drugs over the counter and on prescription are now clearly described in the same section for each of the following: Part I and Part II Poisons; First Schedule Poisons; Dangerous Drugs; and 'Therapeutic Substances'. The

Guide includes, for reference, the full texts of the schedules to the Poisons Rules, and the schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Act. The "Extended Poisons and T.S.A. List", thoroughly revised and brought up to date, now includes nearly 5,000 entries, with a clear indication of the particular restrictions affecting each item. The list includes, so far as possible, all affected substances, proprietary and non-proprietary, which are likely to be called for in the ordinary course of retail and hospital practice.

Spices

THE aromatic, often pungent, vegetable substances used to flavour food, grouped under the name 'spices', have, by one label or another, been household words for centuries, but few people are probably aware of what a wide range of products is involved or know much about their history. Certainly, most know little of the crude methods used by natives, for example, in rural Borneo, to produce them. A forthright article by Peter Humber entitled "The Biggest Thing in Spices since Vasco Da Gama" (*Albright Magazine*, 12; December 1965. 1 Knightsbridge Green, London, S.W.1) lifts the veil from some truly amazing circumstances in which some spices are prepared and brought to market in the Far East, from first-hand information gained during a recent visit to the spice division of the firm, Stafford Allen, a member company of the Albright and Wilson Group, who have been trading in spices for 132 years. He says: "In days gone by spices were as highly prized as precious stones. Men died violently or made their fortunes in their quest for exotic seasonings. Even now spices are used as currency in primitive parts of the world and the spice business is as exciting as it ever was".

This leads to a discussion of a product known as 'Saromex', originated and marketed by Stafford Allen 10 years ago, which has already revolutionized the world's spice industry. Mr. Humber regards the production of 'Saromex' as "... the biggest thing that's happened to spice since Vasco da Gama rounded Cape Horn and anchored off the coast of Calicut". 'Saromex' is a natural spice extract; it contains the whole of the available aromatic ingredients, incorporated on to a clean 'spreader base' such as salt, dextrose or flour; it contains all that is desirable in a particular spice without any of the drawbacks, some of which are mentioned in no uncertain terms in his article. It is pointed out that 'Saromex' is not sold direct to the consumer but is sold and used only in large-scale food production. Of 'Saromex' spices, he says: "... by virtue of their standardized flavour strength and quality, manufacturers can be sure that every batch of their product will taste exactly the same, whereas with natural spices the flavour can vary enormously depending on the conditions in which the spices were grown". Despite some rather terrifying remarks concerning 'infestation' of natural spices, the point is emphasized here that normal ground or whole spices (as supplied to-day) are perfectly safe for domestic usage. This is a very interesting and, in some ways, provocative article which, however, still leaves some questions regarding natural spices unanswered. It is followed by another entitled "Experiments with Spice", in which what are called 'spice-conscious' recipes are detailed. As a practical gesture, certainly an innovation in an industrial house-journal, there is included a generous sample of 'Saromex', so that the experiments may be carried out successfully.

Geological Society of London : Awards

The Council of the Geological Society of London has made the following awards for 1966: *Wollaston Medal*, to Prof. F. R. Shepard, formerly professor of submarine geology, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California, for his researches in sedimentology and submarine geomorphology, and the light they throw on