

TRACES OF A LOST RACE.

Discoveries Made in the Mounds of Louisiana.

Prof. George E. Beyer of Tulane University New Orleans has just returned from his explorations of the so-called Indian mounds along Red River and between that stream and the Mississippi, in Franklin, Natchitoches, and other neighboring parishes, which he investigated for Tulane University and the Louisiana Historical Society. He was engaged in the work for more than five weeks, and he might have stayed ten times as long, for he found the mounds far more common than he expected; so common, in fact, as to indicate that the alluvial lands of the Red River and the country between that stream and the Mississippi must have been far more densely populated at the time the mounds were built than when the white man pushed his way into the country.

Prof. Beyer was chosen for this work because of his recent great success in exploring the Catahoula mounds, also in the swamp. The latter he examined far more thoroughly than any previous explorer, and he was able to show that each mound was not a single body erected at one time, but like Schliemann's Ilium, a succession of mounds or settlements built one on top of the other. He was able to distinguish the several layers of earth, shell, and clay deposited at different times, and to demonstrate a greater antiquity for the Mounds than had been supposed—an antiquity of at least 1000 years. The skeletons and implements discovered proved further that the inhabitants of these mounds were not of the race of the ordinary red Indians who were found there by the French and Spanish explorers, but a race akin to the Aztecs or Toltecs, of a more peaceful disposition than the neighboring Indians and originally more civilized. They had apparently been forced into the great swamp by the surrounding Indian tribes, and their civilization had deteriorated under the unfavorable conditions in which they lived.

Prof. Beyer's later explorations confirmed his former ones, or rather showed that there were two varieties of mounds in the country he explored, one variety, on the higher land, apparently erected by Indians and used mainly for burial purposes; the other built by a more ancient race, containing skulls of the same kind as those found in Catahoula. The Indian mounds contained a large number of skeletons with heads distinctively Indian, arrows, tomakawks, &c. The other mounds were in the swamps or lakes, like those of Mexico. Such lakes were once abundant along the Red River, but nearly all have been drained dry today by the removal of the Red River raft. The number of these mounds fairly staggered Prof. Beyer. On Brown's Bayou, in Natchitoches, he found no fewer than fifty clustered together; and extending a distance of two miles from Brown's Bayou to Little Deer Creek. They were so close together—only 50 feet apart—as to make what must have been in old days a settlement or town. There were beyond them a number of scattering mounds in the swamp, but these fifty were built with something like geometrical precision and regularity. A large mound, known as the Brannin Mound, and the only rectangular one west of the Mississippi, seemed to have been a temple or point of observation. It was much higher than the others, and commanded a fine view of the surrounding country. There were evidences that a fire had been kept lighted on it, either for religious purposes or to give warning to the neighboring settlements. At the time these mounds were erected all the surrounding country was subject to overflow, or rather must have been under water all the time, so that the settlement was originally an American Venice, with canals between the several islands. The mounds had been built at different times, the original material used being shells, and subsequently clay and mud. Unlike the Indian mounds, there were no skeletons in them, and few relics of any kind. The mounds were evidently erected for purposes of refuge from the water, and simply to live on, and, except the central one, were not for burial or religious purposes.

Other similar clusters of mounds were found in the surrounding country. At Clear Lake was a large round mound and around it fifty mounds, all living in the bed of Clear Lake and under the direct control of the big mound. The latter commanded a range of from twenty to thirty miles of circumjacent country.

Some handsome vases were found there, and pottery identical in character and design with that found among the aborigines of the Lesser Antilles. Only a few skulls, however, were obtained, but these showed the mound people to have been of the same race as those in Catahoula parish in Lake Larto, and of the Indian type found in the country by the first white explorers.

At Cemo a mound 600 feet long was explored; but like most of those in the swamp it yielded very little as the result of excavation into it.

The more mounds Prof. Beyer, examined



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the more were brought to his attention, and it became evident that it would take months to make even a hasty examination of all of them. The country was originally, and even in historical times, a great swamp, owing to floods of the Mississippi and the Red rivers which were dammed up by the rafts formed by the trees and trunks carried down by these streams. Through this swamp were scattered hundreds of lakes, some of which, like lakes Catahoula, Iatt, Black, and Clear, still survive, but most of which have been drained and brought under cultivation. It is in these lakes that the mound settlements are found clustered together very much like those of the aborigines of Mexico.

The explorations have not yet determined exactly how these lake dwellers lived, but only that they lived on these mounds, at least a thousand years ago, and probably died out or were killed off before De Soto's day. Whether further explorations will bring to light the story of their origin and fate remains to be determined, but there is little doubt that they fell victims to the fiercer Indian tribes around them.

The recent explorations of Tulane University and the Louisiana Historical Society have aroused an interest in archaeology in Louisiana, and there is scarcely a planter in the alluvial district who has not some mounds on his place which he wants to have examined or which he has undertaken to examine himself.

CAUSES OF ASTHMA.

Various Causes that Lead to this Distressing Disease.

In a recent article concerning the treatment of asthma a prominent authority on diseases of the chest enumerates as follows the principal causes of the obstruction in the bronchial tubes to which the paroxysmal difficulty in breathing is due:

1. A previous diseased condition of the lungs, which renders them susceptible to attack. Not infrequently cases of asthma resist treatment simply from the physician's failure to recognize the existence of an antecedent trouble. Weak lungs are always open to the influence of the various excitants to asthmatical paroxysms.

2. Direct irritation of the lining membrane of the bronchial tubes may establish the disease by exciting the lungs to successive paroxysms. The inhalation of various dusts and powders, like those arising from flowers, marble and coals, and irritating fumes of metals are often the starting point or occasion of a severe attack of asthma, which in fact, usually lasts as long as there is any additional source of irritation. Experience must teach the sufferer what kinds of irritants are especially to be avoided in his individual case. Feather bed, animals, kerosene lamps and arsenical wall-paper are among the more common of direct irritants.

3. In indirect irritation of the lungs the source of the trouble may be located at some distance from the lungs, as is the case in digestive derangements. Attacks of asthma may be provoked by the pressure of tumors or enlarged glands upon the nerves which control the process of breathing. Since the extension of special surgery many cases of asthma arising from irritations and obstructions in the nose have been discovered and cured. Enlarged tonsils may also be a source of irritation.

4. Not the least frequent among the agents concerned in the production of paroxysms of asthma are what are called toxic causes, that is to say, causes which produce systemic poisoning. The more common of these are of gouty or malarial origin. Signs of lead and arsenical poisoning should be searched for.

In looking for the cause of a given case of asthma, we should take into consideration the fact that the disease may be due to one condition alone, or to several combined.

Whatever means are taken for the immediate relief of the paroxysm, it is obvious that a cure of the disease itself cannot be expected until the underlying trouble has been remedied.

They Knew Their Passengers.

The students of sociology will find a great many of the old New England ways still enough to travel on rural trolleys. On one line in Boston suburbs the conductors and motormen know their passengers. The other day a conductor excused his hurry in making change by saying he had to look after Mrs. Blank, 'cause she's lame.' Having helped that lady to reach terra firma, the conductor resumed the collection of fares, beginning with a little girl, of whom he asked: 'How's father's cold today, Annie?' Needless to say that the conductors are 'Johns' and 'Henrys' to many of the patrons. The line is well operated, for the old New England democracy always knew how to get there on schedule time.

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THE BURGLAR'S STORY.

An Unusual Experience Even for a Man Used to Surprise.

The man who was talking to the Washington Star was a burglar, and not one of the reformed kind either. He was not prosecuting his profession just at that particular time, owing to the fact that as the result of a prosecution by the state he was making himself more useful than he had been in a long time.

In other words, he was doing time in a penitentiary, and his dress suit was a continuous reminder to the reporter that a zebra must have been skinned somewhere in that neighborhood.

'Well,' he said in the language of a man who had seen better days and in response to a suggestion from the reporter, 'I suppose I might tell you a story if there was going to be anything in it to me.'

What a heartless wretch he was! Trying in this calculating manner to rob the struggling reporter out of a part of his hard earned stipend. However, the reporter wasn't mean, and after a brief bargaining the inactive burglar proceeded.

'I'll commence at the beginning,' he said, 'and tell you how I got my start—all great men get their start some way or other, you know, and I'm no exception. When I was 12 years old, I ran away from home in the country, where I lived with my uncle, a school-teacher, and if I do say it myself, I was one of his brightest and sharpest scholars. I got to New York as the usual runaway boy does and, unlike most of them I succeeded in eluding pursuit and settled down to business as a newsboy. It was congenial work, and I used to go to night school and soon was a leader among the boys. By the time I was 17 I had a position in a restaurant as a cashier, and the handling of the money was too much for me, and one day I shipped out with \$100 and went to San Francisco. For the next four years I kept getting a little worse but never fell into the hands of the police.'

'Then I got sick and they put me in the city hospital, and one night I died. I mean,' explained the burglar, 'that as far as they knew I was dead. I didn't have any friends, and as the young doctor who attended especially to me didn't get any pay for his trouble the authorities, to recompense him somewhat and to save funeral expenses, turned my body over to him, and he took it to his office for the usual purpose. He laid me out on a table in a back room about 1 o'clock one morning and left me there in the cold while he adjourned to some other part of the house and went to bed, I suppose. In fact I know, as you will see presently.

'I don't know what time in the night it was or what was going on around me, but after awhile I began to come to, and in a few minutes I knew that I was not in the narrow little bed at the hospital, and in a few more minutes I began to be scared nearly to death, for I knew right away that I was in the hands of the doctors and in a fair way to be chopped up. The fright gave me strength, and I got up from the table and was about to break away, anywhere, so long as I got away, when the absence of clothes suggested that I get some, and I began to look around a bit. I soon got into the doctor's wardrobe, and it wasn't long until I had dressed myself very well for ready made things, and wasn't half as bad scared as I had been, owing to a good drink of brandy I got out of a bottle I came across.

'I don't know why the burglar instinct should have showed up at such a time, but the sense of safety that I felt in knowing how easily I could account for my presence in the house seemed to urge me on to getting as much value as I could out of the doctor's house before my departure and, thanks to his carelessness and wealth, when I finally made my exit I had \$1,000 or more worth of jewelry, watches and that sort, to say nothing about \$100 or so I got in cash. In fact,' concluded the burglar, with a heartfelt sigh, 'I don't think, in all the after years of my work, improved as it should have been by experience, study and practice, I ever did a more pleasant and profitable job than my first one, to which of course, was added the keen pleasure of the joke I had played on the doctor.'

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