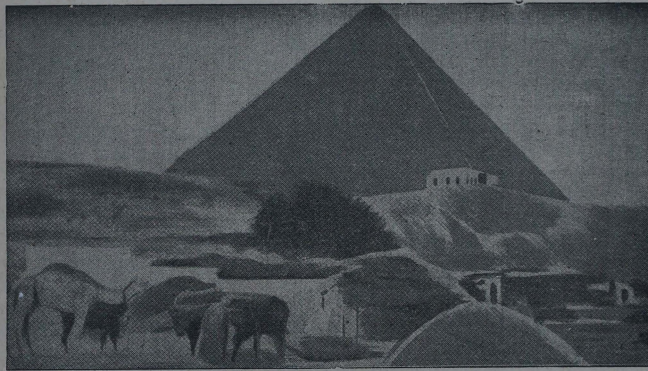


## HISTORY SECTION

## EGYPT, ANCIENT CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION



FARMING IN THE SHADOW OF THE PYRAMIDS

*In the foreground is a pile of wheat which the Egyptian farmer has raised.*

ALTHOUGH the total area of Egypt equals 350,000 square miles, only 12,000 square miles can be used for permanent habitation. This is chiefly in the Nile valley, a narrow strip of country hemmed in by the Arabian hills on the east and the Libyan mountains on the west, and varying in width from 2 to 120 miles.

Along the banks of the Nile you will find the oldest monuments in the world; among them are great temples, the Pyramids, and the Sphinx. And now let us take a steamer at Cairo and voyage up the Nile to read the story, going back 6,000 or 7,000 years, that its tombs and monuments have to tell. Nowhere else in the world can we find so complete a history of man's progress for so long a time.

The Nile valley was the chief cradle of the earliest civilization. The hot drift-

ing sands and rainless atmosphere of Egypt have preserved the remains of that civilization in greater abundance than those of any other early people.

In burial pits of the late Stone Age, scooped out in gravel beds below the sand, we find the bones of Egyptian peasants and chiefs who died more than 6,000—some scholars think 10,000—years ago. By their side lie stone implements and pottery. Picture records show local chieftains controlling the irrigation ditches and collecting taxes of grain and flax. Pieces of linen cloth, small stores of wheat and barley, vase-paintings of boats with oars and sails, give us further glimpses into the life of those old Nile dwellers in that far-off time.

If we go back to about 5000 B. C.—that is nearly seven thousand years ago

—we find these mysterious people of the dawn of history irrigating their fields of flax and wheat, weaving beautiful linen cloth, and making pottery, though their only tools were of stone and bone, and their only houses were mud huts.

Going back to 4000 B. C.—six thousand years ago—we find that the Egyptian had learned the use of metals. And four thousand years ago Egypt was an ancient empire with 1,400 years of known history!

It is within only the last hundred years that we have learned of the world's oldest history—the history of Egypt, ancient cradle of civilization. Men of science have discovered this by digging in the sands and uncovering the burial pits of four, five, or six thousand years ago.

Tombs of later dates continue the story. They show us how the ancient

Egyptians learned to make paper from the papyrus plant, how they developed their own picture writing into alphabetic writing, how they learned to mold bricks, cut stone, and carve statues.

And not only do we find their paintings, their pottery, their jewels, their tools, their wooden chairs, and their papyrus books, but we even find the bodies of the men who made and used these

things; for their mummies are so perfectly preserved by embalming that we can even see how their faces appeared.

Some 350 miles south of Cairo was born King Menes, who lived about 3400 B. C. And we know that in 4241 B. C.—the first event in history to which we can give an exact date—the early Egyptians invented a yearly calendar with 12 months of 30 days each, and five feast

days at the end to make out the full 365 days. This was very much like the calendar we are still using.

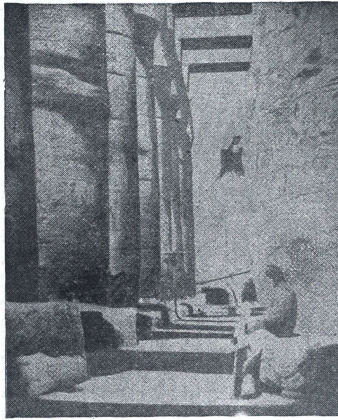
Here, in these ancient historical ruins, we can look on brick-walled tombs, one of which may be that of King Menes himself. Ivory and ebony tablets and inscribed jewels tell of the deeds of these earliest kings.

Now let us go back down the Nile to the royal city of Memphis, about 12 miles

south of Cairo. This city, once 12 miles in circuit, was destroyed by the Arabs in the 7th century, and the sun-dried bricks of which it was built have long since crumbled into dust. All that remains are a few blocks of granite, sculptured fragments, and rubbish heaps.

The city of the living has vanished, but not so the city of the dead. The colossal

(Please return to page 372.)



*The Great Hall at Karnak*

## EGYPT

*(Continued from page 360)*

pyramids still stand which dwellers of Memphis built to protect the bodies of their kings. If we could go in an airplane above the place where the city of Memphis once stood, we could see a line of these great pyramids extending more than 60 miles along the Nile. Each pyramid marks the last resting place of one of the pharaohs (rulers) of the Pyramid Age, which continued from about 3000 to 2500 B. C. The lonely chamber, hidden deep within each of these piles, once housed a royal mummy, decorated with jewels and costly clothing.

The oldest pyramid was erected about 3000 B. C. This earliest "pyramid" was really a series of flat tomb structures, built one on the top of the other, in diminishing sizes, but it suggested the pyramid form.

A hundred years later the Great Pyramid was erected in the cemetery of Gizeh opposite Cairo. This mass of masonry covers 13 acres, each side being 755 feet long and nearly 500 feet high. It contains 2,300,000 blocks of lime-stone, each of great weight. A Greek historian tells us that it took 100,000 men 20 years to build it. But *how* did they

build it? Of that we are not certain.

Nearby stands the great Sphinx, that riddle of the ages whose meaning we have only just learned. Now we know that the great Sphinx was the portrait head of the king attached to the body of a lion.

Around the pyramids of the kings stand small tombs of the nobles. Each pyramid had its temples, and the tombs of the nobles had their chapels. In these are found "pyramid texts"—prayers and incantations supposed to help the dead over the dangers of their long journey through the lower world. Later generations prepared a collection of these charms on long papyrus rolls—some of them 90 feet long—and many copies of this have been found buried with the dead. The name "Book of the Dead" has been given to this collection of religious texts.

About 400 miles from Cairo is the plain of Thebes. The modern center of the plain is Luxor, with its double row of columns along the Nile, its hotels, and the Arab village. To the northeast lies Karnak. This tangle of vast temples built by various pharaohs is approached from the Nile by a broad avenue of ram-headed sphinxes. Karnak

contains the greatest colonnaded hall ever erected.

The columns of its central aisle are 69 feet high, and so large that 100 children could stand on the top of each. Nearby stand sculptured figures cut from a single block 80 or 90 feet high. Sculptures in relief tell of the different wars in Asia. Here for the first time we find the horse represented in sculpture, and we are able to tell about when it began to be used in Egypt.

At Thebes bodies of ancient Egyptian kings and queens are placed. Some of their tombs, tunneled into the rocks for a quarter of a mile, remained unopened almost to our own day, and many of them have been left just as they were discovered. Through guarded doors you may pass through chambers and corridors to the central tomb chamber, where the mummy lies in his sarcophagus, surrounded by furniture and jewelry. The ceiling is painted with stars, and the walls are covered with pictures and hieroglyphic writing that tells of the dead king's deeds.

One of the most sensational excavations was made in 1905 when the tomb and temple of a famous Egyptian queen was dug out of the sands. She was the first woman of history, living

about 1500 B. C. In the wall paintings of the dainty little temple one may read her whole story from birth.

Before the Egyptian empire fell, it flared up in a blaze of glory under Remeses II, the most famous of the pharaohs. For a long distance along the Nile the name of Remeses II appears upon almost every building. He was the greatest builder of all the rulers of Egypt, but he put inscriptions upon many buildings erected by his ancestors.

Rameses II reigned for 67 years, from about 1292 to 1225 B. C., waging long wars in Asia which restored much of Egypt's lost prestige there. He may have been the pharaoh who so grievously oppressed the Israelites, as we read in the Bible.

But now the time came when Egypt was to be the conquered country instead of the conqueror. Egypt was subdued by the Assyrians in the 7th century B. C. and by the Persians in the 6th. It remained a Persian province until 332 B. C., when Alexander the Great seized it. Under the descendants of Alexander it was ruled as an independent country. The city of Alexandria became the greatest commercial port on the

(Please turn to page 375.)

DEADLIEST FOE

(Continued from page 366)

on by sanitation, which strives to do away with the breeding places of germs by disposing of sewage and garbage, by keeping water supplies free from contamination, and so on. The second method is carried out by keeping the body clean, by using disinfectants in wounds, by the proper care of the mouth, nose, throat, by boiling drinking water or using pure water, by fumigating sick rooms, etc. The last method includes the whole field of curative medicine and surgery, with particular emphasis on vaccine and serum treatments, and the use of certain drugs.

Despite all that has been done to solve the problems of medicine since the discovery of disease germs, there still remains an immense field for the scientist to explore. Almost every month a microscope, focused on a spot no bigger than the head of a pin, uncovers some life-saving secret, and the world knows no greater heroes than the men who devote their lives in obscure laboratories to the battle against man's deadliest foe—the microbe.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What living things cause most of the diseases

we know?

2. Why can we not see these organisms with the eye? How many of them, placed end to end, would be less than an inch long?

3. Do savages believe in germs? What do they think causes diseases?

4. Are all micro-organisms harmful to man? Can you name some that are not?

5. What are bacteria? Name the two general groups of bacteria according to shape.

6. Name as many diseases as you can that are caused by bacteria.

7. What product do germs form that is poisonous to the system? What is the meaning of "taxin"?

8. How many germs, or microbes, enter our system?

9. Is every disease germ that enters the human body actually harmful?

10. What are the three ways of fighting diseases caused by germs?

11. Is the man who dies for his country on the battlefield a greater hero than the man who labors painstakingly in a laboratory in an effort to conquer man's deadly foes, the germs?

12. Do scientists know everything possible about disease germs?

13. What are disinfectants?

14. Are they useful? Why?

EGYPT

(Continued from page 273)

Mediterranean Sea, and Egyptian fleets ruled the seas from the Indian Ocean to the Hellespont. Alexandria became the literary and scientific capital of the world as well as the most famous city of that time, it also became the commercial center. The ruins of ancient Alexandria lie far below the remains of the modern city Alexandria.

After the reign of the famous Cleopatra, Egypt became a Roman province. During the early centuries of the Christian era Alexandria was the world's chief center of learning and Christianity. But Egypt fell an easy prey to the Saracen conquest in 641 A.D., and since that time Mohammedanism has ruled in the land of the pharaohs. Six centuries later the last remains of ancient Egyptian civilization and greatness disappeared under the despotic rule of Circassian slaves who had been brought in as soldiers and who overthrew the government in 240 A. D.

Early in the 16th century the Turks ended this government, but failed to subdue the provincial governors, who kept Egypt in confusion for 300 years. They were conquered by Napoleon in 1798. British occupation began in 1882,

USING TIME

(Continued from page 371)

which is valuable. During school hours he studies. During the study period he prepares lessons. During the activity period he plays games or takes part in some physical activity which will develop his body, and make him strong and healthy. Even at night, his mother tells me, he uses his time wisely, because he goes to bed at an early hour, opens his windows wide, and sleeps soundly. I surely believe that for this boy "Time is money," indeed.

My father says that he would like to be a boy again, so he could use his time to better advantage. "But now it is too late," he says. "And," he continues, "I hope my son will use his time more wisely."

So, let us all try to use our time wisely, and remember that TIME IS MONEY.

GLITTERING PEBBLES

(Continued from page 364).

2. Name some precious stones you know. Which is the most valuable?

3. Do you know why a diamond is used for cutting glass?

and tribute to Turkey ended in 1914. Egypt is now under British control with a native king.

LEARNING TO COOK

(Continued from page 371)

can from our cook. Sometimes my mother teaches me in the kitchen, because mother can cook very well.

I find the cook book is very good. We have three different cook books.

I also get good recipes in THE YOUNG CITIZEN. I like to cook some of the food for which the recipes are given on the page for *The Young Citizen Pantry*. I made six different kinds of candy from recipes printed in THE YOUNG CITIZEN.

CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN

(Continued from page 371)

esque water falls. They were small, but attractive. I photographed some with my kodak, but the pictures were not good when the films were developed.

About noon we reached the top of the mountain which we had planned to climb. My brother had a small Filipino flag in his knapsack. When we reached the top of the mountain we cut a small flag pole, and hoisted the colors on it.

About three in the afternoon we started down the mountain. We were tired and our feet ached, but we were anxious to get to our home before dark, so we pushed on rapidly. We arrived at our camp sight just as it was getting dark.