

PALLADIUM SHORT STORY PAGE

FROM A GRAVE 1500 YEARS OLD!

SOME remarkable discoveries just made near Giessen, Germany, indicate that the Dark Ages, the period in European history from about A. D. 700 to 1200 A. D. were not as dark as historians have hitherto believed.

Some ancient graves, dating back to 550 A. D., which have been opened by archaeologists within the past few weeks have brought to light a number of articles which demonstrate that the Germans of that time must have attained a high state of civilization instead of being the barbarians they have hitherto been regarded.

It was at the little village of Leibgestern, about three miles and half from Giessen, that these discoveries were made. It has been well known among archaeologists that this town was the seat of one of the oldest settlements in Germany, running back to prehistoric times, and in 1908 remains of prehistoric man of nearly 5,000 years ago were found there. It was not until October of this year, however, that the graves belonging to the Merovingian Age, dating back to 550 A. D., were uncovered, shedding considerable light upon that period of the Dark Ages, of which history knows comparatively little.

Tacitus, the Roman historian, declared that the Germans of his period, 120 A. D., were the wildest kind of barbarians, with few, if any, of the arts of civilization, dressing chiefly in the skins of wild beasts, and living a very primitive kind of existence. And this view has been accepted by subsequent historians.

The find just made, however, shows that this theory is entirely erroneous and that great injustice has been done to the men and women of that early period. At this period, it must be remembered, Germany had been overrun by the Franks, but hardly conquered, many of the native tribes being in constant rebellion, and it now appears that the Germans acquired from their Frankish foes and conquerors many of the arts of the time.

The graves thus far opened have been mainly those of women, and in one of these were found not only the ornaments which the women wore but also many of the utensils which they used, indicating clearly what arts they practiced, and what degree of civilization they had attained.

It was the custom of the Germans of that period to bury with their women all their ornaments and whatever utensils might be useful to them when they came to life again, for they believed in a future



The Grave of a Medieval German Woman Which Has Brought So Many Interesting Things to Light.



A German Woman of the Sixth Century, A. D.

life where such things would come in handy, just as the Egyptians did.

Among the objects recovered were various kinds of paraphernalia for weaving, fine specimens of pottery and jewels of all kinds, from beads, necklaces and bracelets to glass bottles and Roman coins.

It is made evident that the artificers of Germany in that age must have understood all about metal working and the women must have dressed far more ornately and handsomely than historians have led us to believe. They wore jeweled pins and girdles; they combed their hair with elaborately decorated combs, and they wore necklaces, bracelets and buckles.

They had not merely the utilities but also the adornments of life, which are indications of much more than barbaric splendor, and their artistry suggests aesthetic taste and a real civilization. There must have been considerable enlightenment among these people in the age which we, in our ignorance, refer to as Dark.

The Roman coins found in the graves indicate that the Romans must have been in these parts for five centuries or more. One of the coins found is an invaluable denarius of the Roman Emperor Trajan, who ruled in Rome between 98 and 117 A. D., and is looked upon as one of the greatest of the Roman emperors. Other coins

were apparently used as ornaments, and some of them may possibly have been cast upon the spot.

Besides the well-shaped and harmoniously decorated pottery were found wooden plates with a border decoration of baskets containing hazel nuts. The glass bottles were all well shaped and of a greenish color, and the beads were strung

on copper wire and skilfully shaped from hard materials. Here, too, were distaffs, whorls and knives used in weaving, and even a last on which shoes were made, showing that these early Teutons did not go barefoot, but, on the contrary, went to considerable pains to shape their shoes neatly.

There is evidence, too, that they used candles, for a number of tall wooden candlesticks were found which showed every sign of having been used, and which were carefully turned.

All of these treasures have been removed to the museum at Giessen, and it is expected that continued investigation may bring other discoveries which will add considerably to our knowledge of these early times and help to correct the errors and misstatements of historians, which fail to give the Germans full credit for their early achievements.

Much of our knowledge of early

Wonderful New Discoveries in an Ancient Tomb Prove That a High State of Civilization Existed in Germany as Early as 550 A. D.

be done they left to the women folk, who were almost as fierce as the men.

Drunkenness, quarreling and gambling usually marked their social gatherings, and the least excitement was sufficient to disclose their cruelty and to bring violent bursts of temper.

Folk-songs and dances, in which the famous deeds of their heroes were perpetuated, were handed down from father to son, and many of them survive to this day.

The family relation was held in great reverence by these early Teutons. The wife was completely subservient to her husband, however, and if she proved unworthy custom allowed him to cut off her hair and to whip her through the village in

boys were taught the use of weapons at an early age.

Among their gods was Ziu or Tiu, the Scandinavian Tyr, the god of war, whom Tacitus refers to as Mars and whose symbol was the sword. Another powerful goddess, Nerthus, was worshipped by the Teutons, according to Tacitus.

Whether these somewhat disparag-

ing views of early Teutonic life will be materially changed as a result of the recent discoveries will depend largely upon the importance attached to them by modern archaeologists and historians, but it must be apparent that at the period covered by the graves so far opened, the Germans had certainly attained a much higher degree of civilization than has hitherto been supposed.

A Woman Genius and "The Forty Immortals."

In France one of the greatest questions of the day is to know whether Mme. Curie, a savant, for the honor proposed. Authorities agreed that she had an equal part with her husband in the discovery of radium, and her scientific attainments are of such an exalted order that the Minister of Public Instruction, an ex-officio rector of the University of Paris, felt perfectly justified in installing her in a specially created chair, where she could teach the new science, which has had such a startling effect on old established theories.

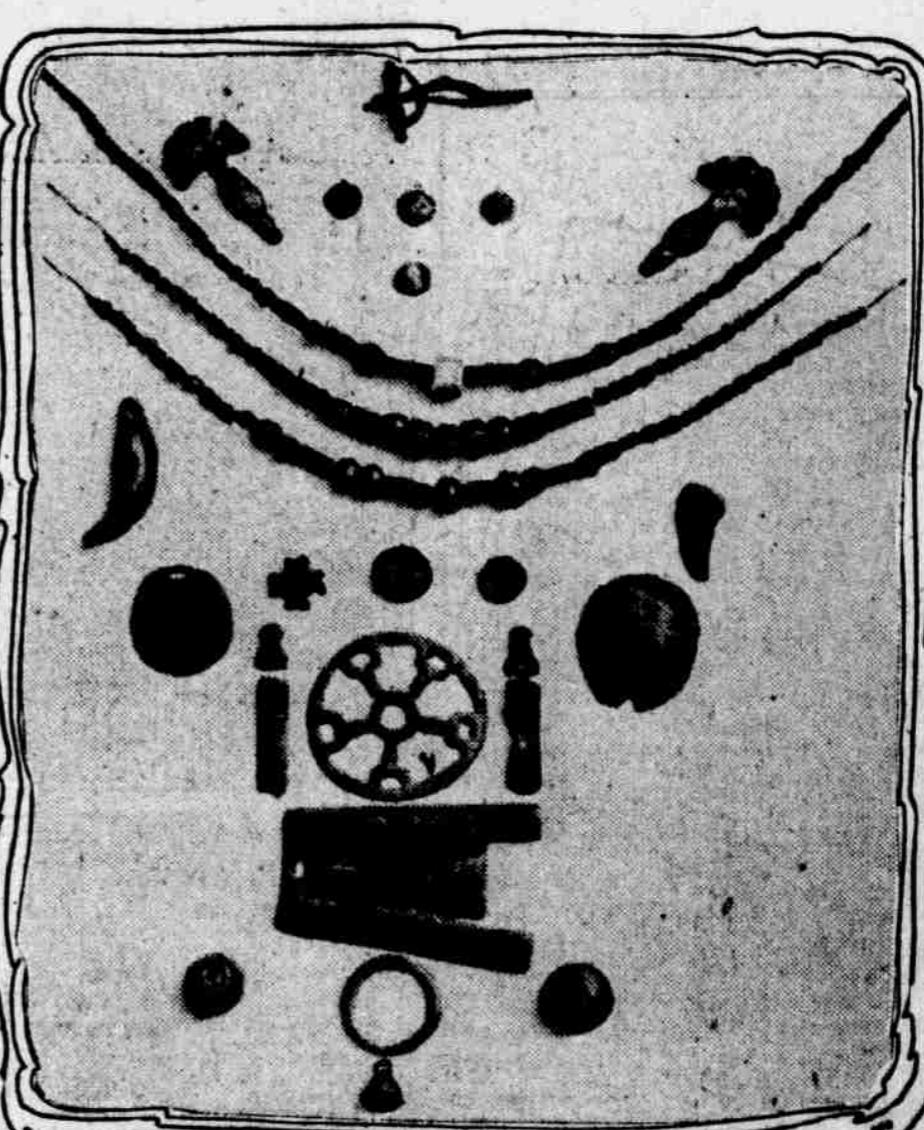
So advanced, indeed, is the character of Mme. Curie's teaching that few of her class can follow her in her scientific flights. A woman of quite remarkable intellect, she is none the less a model mother and possesses a charming daughter, who does not disdain dolls. The proposal, then, is that Mme. Curie shall enter the Academy of Science, but that more distinguished Academy, the Academie of Letters—the Academie Francaise—is profoundly moved.

If Mme. Curie is admitted to one Academy she may presently claim entry to the circle of the Forty, and such an intrusion was never contemplated—certainly not by Richelieu when he founded the Institut.

M. Curie, who met a premature death in the streets of Paris, being run over by a wagon, was made a member of the Royal Society on the strength of a remarkable lecture in London on radium shortly after its discovery, and it was only subsequently that he received Academic honors in France.

While the Academy deliberates on this momentous question of the admission of women, Stockholm has solved the problem in its own fashion by admitting the lady savant to its highest scientific distinction. Thus Mme. Curie becomes "Academie Francaise," even while waiting the verdict of France. This Scandinavian tribute is significant, because from the University of Stockholm proceeds each year the list of laureates of the Nobel Prize.

The personality of Mme. Curie is, in a certain sense, the battle flag of French suffragettes. They are only awaiting the entrance of the lady to the portals of the Institut before advancing the claims of many other women in France to places among the immortals.



Three Ornaments and a Roman Coin of the Reign of Emperor Trajan Found in One Grave.

German conditions is derived from Tacitus's work, "Germania," although, as has been seen, in some respects his assertions may be open to doubt.

According to this Roman historian, the ancient Germans were a tall, vigorous race, with long fair hair and "fiercely blue eyes." They wore the skins of wild animals thrown over their shoulders and fastened by a thorn or a pin. Their dwellings were wooden huts of rough construction, the inner walls of which were colored in primitive fashion, and which served as a human habitation.

Their principal occupations were fighting and hunting; they had neither the skill nor the inclination for the more peaceful arts. Such household work as was necessary to

which she lived, although this form of punishment was seldom resorted to. Over the children the father exercised absolute control, and the

opinion as to the eligibility of women to sit beneath the famous dome.

There is no question, of course, as

to the eligibility of women to sit beneath the famous dome.

His first impulse was to telephone to Scotland Yard and risk it; but he spurned it. It was the coward's way out; and he knew that he could only save himself at Stasie's expense. He did not doubt their good faith for an instant, ringing up Scotland Yard on the private number.

His heart was like a frozen stone as he walked across the room, without the flicker of even an eyelid. He had all part of the game. It had to be. It was as all as inevitable as an Asa-leyed drama. They were revolutionaries and Hitlerites, but Stasie's name was not his and his organization, and the cause, backed by unlimited gold, the bank at roulette, always wins. Poor, miserable fools, to put themselves up against it. It was their own fault, and they had deserved it.

Suddenly he came back to himself and his surroundings, and shivered. It was not cold; and his rose abruptly and shrugged his shoulders.

"Good-bye," he said. "It is half-past eleven. Anastasia ought to have been back. She had not noticed the flight of time in his grim retrospect; but what matter? It had whiled a weary waiting away.

He rang the bell and ordered supper, taking a certain minute and not taking a certain minute, care about for supper, and nothing was good enough for her.

The clock chimed the three-quarters on the half past eleven, and he turned to his hostess, making his turn with a sudden gesture of impatience, and that she should always love him as she did. It was his one fear. But what matter Oiga sometimes or other? The affair had made him.

And one by one in solemn procession of judges and interlocutors their pale and frightened faces with the rings of his smoke. Yes, that was a fine young fellow leading a forlorn hope; but he had to go. That woman with the black hair and the lovely eyes had had beautiful hair; but thumb-screws tell the truth.

"Perhaps," he said, in an icy voice, "you will be happier in another situation, madam. I have no use for people who fail to do their duty. Meanwhile, I will ring up Scotland Yard on the private number."

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He stopped for a moment and surveyed the room floor was brightly lit, as though guests were being entertained, and there was a light, ferny smell.

As he heard the chime of All Souls' Church at the top of the street strike the half hour, he turned round and looked all about him. Not a soul was in sight.

He mounted the three wide steps and rang the bell with his own hand.

It was opened almost immediately by a man in livery.

"I have come," he said simply, as he entered with a coldly expressionless face, throwing away his cigar.

At noon punctually the next day Anastasia Mechnikoff burst into the sitting room at the Savoy Hotel and found Mrs. Archbold awaiting her.

"Oh, I've had such a funny adventure," she exclaimed. "It was quite a mistake, and every one was awfully nice to me. Where's daddy? I hope he wasn't anxious."

"I don't know," answered the widow, with a smile in her voice. "He went after midday, and I waited for you, and he had not yet returned."

And that was the last heard of Prince Mechnikoff.

So he crossed the road mechanically, and found himself outside a forty-five.

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Up-to-Date Jokes

The Friend—Your wife doesn't appear to be in very good humor.

Husband—No; she thinks I've invited you to dinner.

Ernest Pilgrim—Please send a large bunch of roses to this address and charge it to me.

Clerk—Yes, sir; and your name?

Ernest Pilgrim—Oh, never mind the name; she'll understand.

Visitor—I envy you that light and skilful hand of yours!

Young Sculptor (stammered)—And so you see my "Amazon"?

Visitor—No, but I hear you shaver.

Prince Mechnikoff—

He stopped.

Prince Mechnikoff got out, and gave the man a half crown without looking at the register. Then he drew himself up to his full height and inhaled a deep breath of the beautiful night air.

Then, with his steel-blue eyes set straight in front of him, he walked due north with a brisk step. It was just on the half hour, and he had no intention of being late.

He kept his eyes on the numbers, and found that 47 was on the left-hand side.

"How are you?"

"Oh, I'm about even with the world."

"How's that?"

"I figure that I owe about as many people as I don't owe."