

## The Ancient Ruins of Palenke.

By Enos Brown.

A TRAVELER who recently visited the famous ruins at Palenke, State of Chiapas, Mexico, laments the changes which time and the elements are gradually making in their appearance and condition. Nothing has ever been done by the Federal Government to preserve these impressive monuments of the highly cultured race who constructed them, and of whose history and origin but little is known. The climate of the region in which the ruins are situated is the direct opposite of that of Egypt, inasmuch as the rainfall at Palenke has been known to amount to 200 inches a year. The air is humid and encourages decay, and at the same time stimulates the rapid growth of the vines and creeping plants, which



CARVING FROM THE RUINS OF PALENKE

are disintegrating the walls and pavements and will eventually level them to the ground. So dense is the foliage surrounding the ruins that light from the sun is almost totally obscured. The photographer who was employed by the Mexican Government to take pictures of the ruins could accomplish his object in some instances only by means of a flash light. The ruins of Palenke are about 200 miles from the port of Frontera, and are reached by steamer up the Tabasco River to San Juan Bautista and thence by trail. The group all lie within a radius of 2000 feet, and consist of nine distinct structures, of which the "palace" is the largest and most central. The ruined buildings consist of temples, pyramids, aqueducts and edifices whose purpose is not yet ascertained. The temple is the largest of all, and upon it the ancient builders lavished all their art. It includes a court and balconies, as well as great corridors in which tablets in bass-relief are fastened into the walls. Sculptures representing battle scenes and events of the

feet, and breadth 180 feet, and elevated on a mound 310 feet long, feet wide and forty feet high. The material used was stone, many blocks of prodigious size being used, and all joined together with mortar. As great architectural ability was displayed by the builders of the edifices at Palenke as was shown by the architects who erected those of the Nile. How it was possible for a primitive people to fashion, convey and sculpture such immense stones as were employed is the wonder of modern archaeologists. It would seem that the same people were the builders of these structures found at Milta, Mayapan, Tula, as well as at Palenke, a race which covered Yucatan and the Southern States of Mexico with mighty temples.

A French scientist with a lively imagination and unusual powers of observation credits the "Toltecs" with building these ancient temples, and fixes the seventh century as the period of their erection, but these confident assertions are doubted. Others place the era in which they were built as early as the date of the pyramids of Egypt. However, it seems to be proved beyond a doubt that many centuries before the discovery of America these ruins were in existence. It is not believed that Cortez or those with him knew of the Palenke ruins, though that conqueror must have been close to them at one time. Europeans first heard of them in 1750, but it was not until 1787 that they were explored. The key unlocking the mysteries hidden in the hieroglyphs which are carved on hundreds of tablets may some time be discovered, and the history of a great race of people and their origin be known, but their successors who now inhabit the region have no traditions that can aid the inquirer.

The ruins of Palenke should be preserved, and the Mexican Government owe that much to the world. If it were possible to clear the timber away and destroy the growth of vines which is rapidly overwhelming them, these interesting relics might be saved for the future. They have so far resisted the effects of time and physical convulsion, but must eventually succumb to the ceaseless, persistent and silent assaults of an overwhelming tropical growth.—Scientific American.

### The Hewitt Lamp in England.

The remarkable mercury vapor lamps devised by Mr. Peter Cooper Hewitt are now being exhibited at the offices of the Westinghouse Company. These lamps can be run off any ordinary continuous-current electric light supply system, and show an efficiency of two to three candles per watt, or for the same lighting require only about one-ninth the current taken by ordinary glow lamps. The sole drawback to the light lies in its extraordinary color. There is a total absence of all red rays, and consequently all tints red by ordinary light are curiously perverted. A lady's lips look purple; so that at present no attempt is being made to utilize the light for domestic purposes, as feminine opposition would be too strong. In other cases, however, the light has very strong advantages. It is stated that it is an excellent light to work by, and this we can well believe.—London Engineering.

## The Oldest Man in the World

157—and He Has Documents to Prove It.

Undoubtedly the oldest man in the world, and probably the oldest human being, is Manuel del Valle, of Menlo

when the battle of Bunker Hill was fought.

He was already an old man when Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo, being then sixty-five years old.

Del Valle was 101 years old at the beginning of the Mexican war.

He retired from active business thirteen years before that, having then reached the age of eighty-eight.

He was twenty years a customs official at Ensenada, Lower California.



MANUEL DEL VALLE, AGED 157.

Park, Cal. He has reached the age of 157 years.

He has legal proof of his age. In many cases of persons living beyond the hundred mark who have attracted public attention there has been grave doubt as to the year of their birth. Belief in their age is based upon their own stories or on hearsay.

Manuel del Valle's proof is documentary. He has in his possession the certificate of his birth, signed by the jefe politico, or chief magistrate of Zacatecas, Mexico. The certificate, which shows that del Valle was born in Zacatecas on November 24, 1745, is supplemented by the records of the Mexican customs service, in which he served for many years.

Were it not for these indisputable proofs it would scarce be believable that a human being could have reached the age of 157.

At the time Del Valle was born

from 1814 to 1845 he acted as supernumerary in the Franciscan mission at San Quentin, Lower California, the first mission building to be established on the Pacific coast, and which is now in ruins.

In 1845, when he was just 100 years old, Del Valle came with relatives to what is now San Francisco in a vessel that sailed around Cape Horn. He has lived in Menlo Park since then and has occupied the same room, his great-grandnephew, Jose del Valle, looking after the truck farm that supports the family.

Manuel del Valle looks his great age. He is a little, dried-up, frail man, scarcely five feet tall and weighing not more than ninety pounds. He is still able to walk without assistance and takes a daily stroll about his house. He has not been more than two blocks away from it in thirty years. He can see but little, but he hears fairly well.

He speaks English brokenly, but understands it well. He never was much interested in the big events of the world. He says he has never used liquor nor tobacco. Furthermore he declares that he never has wet his feet nor been out in a frost, apparently holding these things to be equally abominable. He never eats solid food, his only nourishment being bean broth, and all day long he sits in the sunshine in front of his adobe home.—New York World.

### Smart Fox Sees Trouble.

The following incident occurred while the writer was a student in the Philadelphia Normal School. The teacher of drawing there was extremely anxious that the girls should do imaginative work.

She requested them to make a drawing to illustrate a story in which a dog and a tree were the principal factors. One bright young lady finished her work and then sat very complacently waiting for her critique. Presently Miss Campbell appeared, and as she looked upon a beautifully finished drawing of a tree she said: "Very good, but where is the dog?" "The dog," exclaimed the young lady, "Oh, he's behind the tree."—Philadelphia Ledger.

### Tomb of President Arthur.



The monument at the grave of Chester A. Arthur, in Rural Cemetery, Albany, New York, is in the form of an angel placing a palm leaf on a sarcophagus. It is a beautiful piece of sculpture. At the base there appears only the simple inscription, "Arthur."

## Farm Topics

### DEFECTS AND SOUNDNESS.

The line of distinction between soundness and serviceable soundness—Examining whether the ailment is a blemish or due to the kind of work the horse has had to do. A horse can be used on a farm with a blemish or even unsoundness which would render it useless as a driver, and while the horse would be serviceably sound to the farmer, it would not, in the latter case, be sound at all.

When a horse has one hip lower than the other it is not always an unsoundness, as in many cases it does not interfere with his usefulness. Interfering is not an unsoundness, but a defect in the gait. "Cribbling" is sometimes given in the English bench as an unsoundness, but the American very often attributes it to imitation of a bad habit in another horse.—Dr. F. Torrence, in The Cultivator.

### INCUBATORS A NECESSITY.

Years ago incubators were considered principally in the light of luxuries, to be possessed only by poultrymen of unlimited means, but a new era has dawned, one of necessity, not alone for those who raise large flocks, but for those also who raise only a few hundred chicks. Incubators are no longer experiments, successful only in rare cases, but their construction and working arrangements are so simple that they are always a decided success. The cost has been lowered to within the reach of everyone, and since they require so little time and attention, every person who raises as many as 500 chicks should own one.

Keep the hens laying and let the incubator do the hatching. It is much easier to raise the chicks in brooders, and the loss from disease and accidents will be much less. Try one this season and see if your profits are not larger.—Home and Farm.

### DAIRY JOTTINGS.

The natural temperature of milk is about 100 degrees or little more. The calf should be fed milk about this temperature, and cold or sour milk never fed.

Place small lumps of rock salt in the pails from which cows are fed. Milk from a newly calved cow should not be sent to the factory until after seven milkings.

If rape and lucerne be allowed to wilt in the sun for some hours after being wet and fed to cattle immediately after being milked, the taint in the milk will be very slight and will disappear entirely after cooling, and good, sweet butter can be made from it.

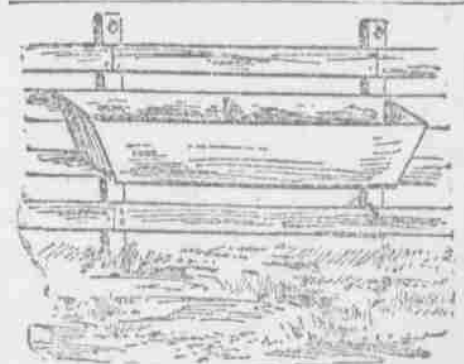
Milk should be treated in the same way when wild mustard or wild carrot is abundant in the hay.

Ensilage which has become considerably spoiled and smells very strong should never be near cows when they are being milked, or while the milk is close to a manger, as the smell is so strong from such ensilage that milk will absorb it from the outside.

If a cow has a sore teat that will be injured by the hands in milking, do not wet it with milk, but use a little vaseline.

### FOR OUTDOOR FEEDING.

At a season of the year when it is desirable to feed most of the stock in the pasture a number of troughs made like that shown in the illustration will be found to save considerable labor. The trough may be made any size to accommodate the animals to be fed.



TROUGH FOR PASTURE.

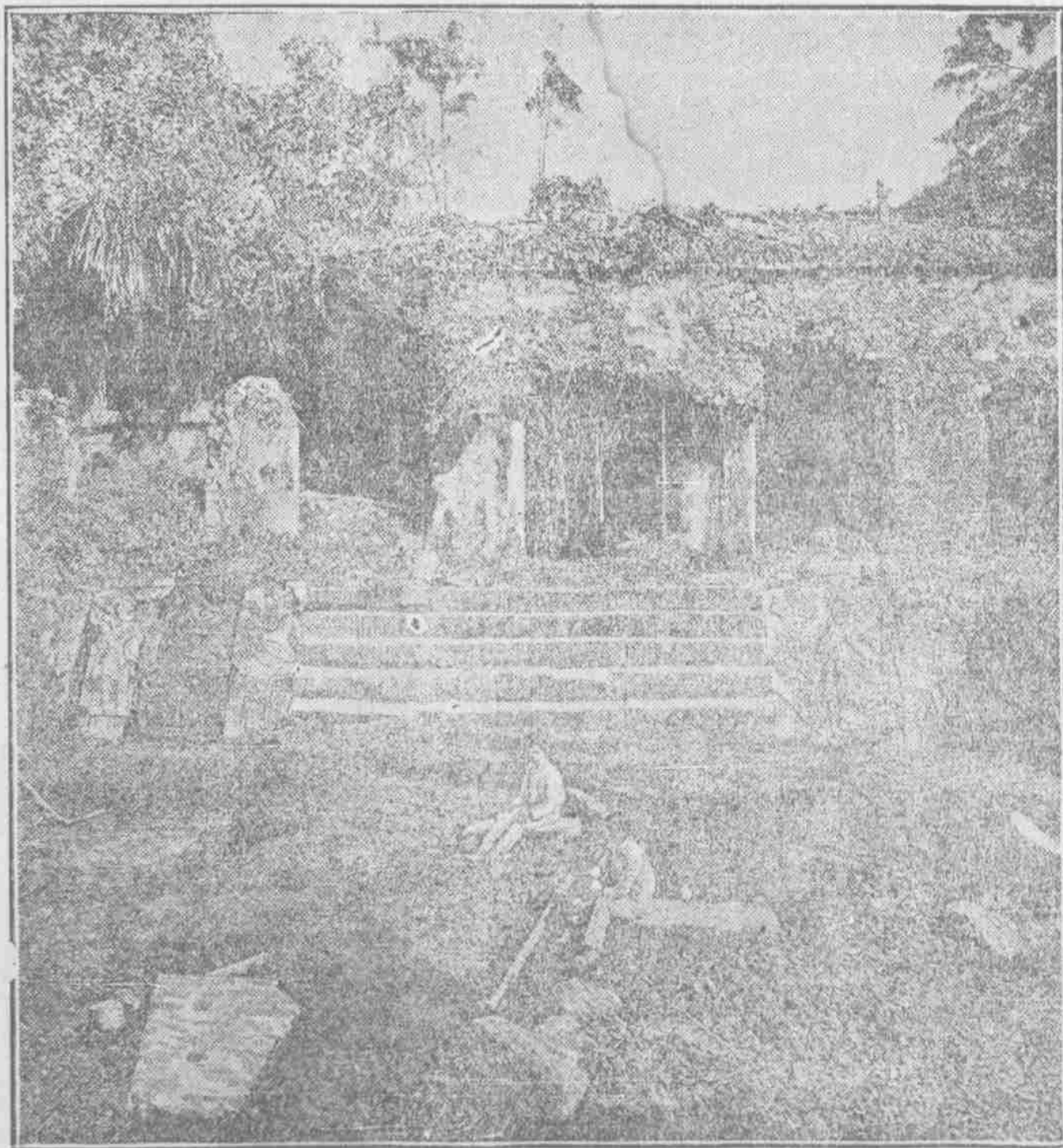
For horses and cows it may be arranged on the fence as shown and for sheep and swine fastened lower down on the fence. Made a foot wide at the bottom, and, say, twenty inches at the top, it will be about right.

The trough should be securely spiked to the fence posts as shown, and if two animals are to be fed at a time it may be divided in the middle. If the animals are tied to the rings at the posts each will get its share. Troughs of this kind are especially desirable when corn, oats or chopped roots are to be fed in the field and by their use loss or waste of the food is prevented.—Indianapolis News.

### An Attempt Which Failed.

The Portuguese attempted to establish cattle farming in Newfoundland in 1553, but all trace of the animals they imported have been lost.

More than 524,000 acres of land in the Indian possessions of Great Britain are devoted to the cultivation of tea, nine-tenths of the area being in Assam and Bengal. Production is officially estimated at 121,200,000 pounds.



THE RUINED TEMPLE OF PALENKE.

nation's life are carefully depicted. From them the physical characteristics and domestic habits may be correctly ascertained. The dimensions of the "palace" are great. Length is 238

The yuekin, or moon guitar, of China, has four strings, turned in pairs, at intervals of the fifth. The drum is usually decorated with Chinese figures in various grotesque positions.

George Washington was only thirteen years old. This living man was ten years old when the French and Indian war began.

He was a grown man of twenty