

WHEN DID LIFE ON THIS EARTH BEGIN

SCIENTISTS HAVE THEORY

Believe It Started Billion and Half of Years Ago and in Water; Plants First Living Things

When did this mysterious thing called life begin?

One and one-half billion years ago the first forms of life appeared on the earth, say scientists who have systematically probed into the dim reaches of our world's past. What these first forms of life are believed to have looked like, and how they began, are shown in a painting, "The Beginning of Life," recently placed on exhibition in Ernest R. Graham hall of Historical Geology at Field Museum of Natural History. It is one of a series of paintings of prehistoric scenes, painted by Charles R. Knight of New York, and presented to the museum by Ernest R. Graham.

Originated in Water

"The first form of life undoubtedly originated in water," says Dr. O. C. Farrington, curator of geology at the museum, who has made extensive studies of this subject, and is one of a number of scientists who supplied data to the artist upon which has conceptions of the prehistoric world are based. "This water in which life had its origin is believed by some authorities to have been sea water; by others it is thought to have been hot, volcanic water.

"The first living things were plants, not animals, and were exceedingly minute, floating forms composed of but a single cell each. The common name for these is sea weeds, but they occur in both fresh and salt water. They were of the order of minute water plants known today as algae. They vary in color, being commonly green, brown and red, but in hot volcanic water also show shades of pink, yellow and orange. Some secrete lime or silica and thus build up series of basins such as are seen in great beauty in Yellowstone Park, and in New Zealand, Iceland and other countries today. They also form spheroidal and circular masses of a stony character. The finding of masses of this nature among some of the oldest rocks affords the evidence upon which

our knowledge of the early existence of these plants is based."

In Group of Pools
In the painting the artist has portrayed these earliest known forms of life as appearing in a group of pools. Within the waters of these pools algae of a blue-green hue are shown in such quantities as to tint the liquid with their colors. They also have built up a series of stony basins. In other pools, cushion-shaped forms of pink algae are shown. Other portions of the deposits are seen to be tinged brown or orange by algae of those colors. The adjoining rocks are represented as being bare and naked, no other life being in existence at this time. The rocks are mostly of black lava, but some areas of a reddish color are shown to indicate the great iron-bearing deposits which were also formed at this time.

NEARLY 3 MILLIONS CARS BOUGHT IN 1927

Purchase of New Autos and Trucks Last Year in United States

A total of 2,951,503 new passenger cars and trucks were purchased by the motorists of the United States during the calendar year of 1927, according to revised figures of the American Motorists' association, in co-operation with the Automobile club of Illinois. Comparing the number of new vehicles purchased with the number junked, the figures show that during the year 1,125,922 more cars were bought than were junked. The total number junked aggregated 1,825,581 cars and trucks.

Computed on a percentage basis, Connecticut motorists purchased the highest number of new automobiles, the total registration as of January 1, being 281,521 of which 47,426 or 18 per cent were purchased during 1927. On the same basis Alabama ranked second with 17 per cent; North Carolina, District of Columbia and Montana motorists tying for third place with a 16 per centage of new cars purchased during the year.

Figured on a basis of the total number of new automobiles purchased during the year, New York purchasing a total of 271,856 new passenger cars and trucks, ranked first, followed by Pennsylvania with 235,109; California 186,468; Ohio 171,427 and Illinois 166,004.

Question asked, "What's the matter with marriage?" Nothing, but there are a lot of things the matter with people who get married.

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