

A COLUMN FROM THE "SUNDAY CRIMES"

[This is a fitting occasion to record our appreciation of the services which the "Sunday Crimes" has rendered to science and humanity. Though concerned chiefly with criminology and ethics, there are, nevertheless, few branches of knowledge which have not been enriched by its trenchant contributions.

Among other sciences Anthropology might be mentioned as one in calculably indebted to it, for there have been few discoveries in this subcontinent, which it has not sponsored. In the column below will be found the report of a most sensational find, one which, we are pleased to inform our readers, once again places South Africa in her rightful position in the Anthropological world. As our readers are aware, her pre-eminence as a source of old fossils had recently been vigorously disputed, the discovery of the Peking Tooth, having brought China into undeserved prominence. But thanks to the efforts of Professor Arrowsmith and the 'Sunday Crimes' these dark days are already of the past, and South Africans can once again raise their heads. We reprint below the columns which we have no doubt will prove of intense interest to all.—Ed.]

FRESH FOSSIL FRAGMENT FOUND

ZEAL AT ZIMBABWE

TAUNGS TOOTH TALLIES

Zimbabwe is once more the cynosure of all eyes. Professor Arrowsmith, the well-known anthropologist, archæologist and spiritualist, who has been working at the Ruins for the past two months, has made a discovery of the first magnitude.

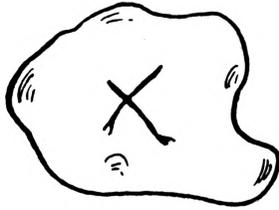
It would appear that, on the evening of the 10th of October, the Professor, returning from the river saw at the foot of the Conical Tower a small white object gleaming in the last rays of the setting sun. He picked it up, and after gazing at it for a few moments realised that he held in his hand the upper left lateral incisor of the Taungs' skull. Although he had never seen the Taungs' skull, the detailed description given by the 'Sunday Crimes' on the occasion of its discovery, enabled him to form the correct mental image and at once appreciate the significance of his find.

Any other scientist would now have published his results and rested on his laurels. Not so our savant. With due regard to the rules of scientific method, he dispatched an expedition under Adams to Taungs for the purpose of obtaining confirmatory evidence, while he himself proceeded to Johannesburg. There before an awed gathering of brilliant fellow-scientists he demonstrated how admirably the tooth fitted the socket from which it had been separated for thousands of years.

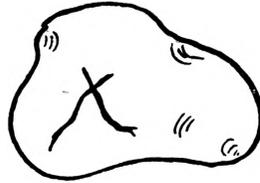
Evidence of the Petroglyphs.

While the Professor was lecturing in Johannesburg, his assistants under Mr. P. E. Adams, the archæologist, were conducting a vigorous search at Taungs for rock-markings and rock-paintings. On the 12th of October, two days after the discovery of the tooth, there was found within a stone's throw of the site at which the Taungs' skull was unearthed, a petroglyph resembling in every respect the petroglyphs found in such profusion in the vicinity of Zimbabwe. Lest our readers consider our state-

ment exaggerated we give below reproductions of the photographs taken at Taungs and Zimbabwe :



The Taungs' Petroglyph.



Typical Zimbabwe Petroglyph.

On making this find Mr. Adams was good enough to send us a description and point out why it is that this rock-marking is so important. We quote from his letter: " This type of petroglyph is peculiar in that it is always found on igneous-volcanic rock of immense antiquity We find that the natives of Taungs on being taken to our rock and interrogated as to the significance of the marking adopt an attitude similar to that of the Rhodesian native when confronted with the Zimbabwe petroglyph. At first, an expression of fear settles on their faces; then, raising their shoulders to their ears they mutter ' Ow Ini Indaba nkosi.' It is difficult to render their poetical meaning exactly but as near as idiomatic differences will allow, the English equivalent, may be given as ' Monkey-people of the Long Ago.' This discovery has filled me with a sort of religious awe. I feel that we are on the eve of a momentous revelation.

The evidence afforded by the tooth and the petroglyph points quite definitely to the existence in prehistoric times of a race of small ape-like men, who painted their bodies, ate their food with gusto and loved their wives intensely. But it points to much more than this! Let us review this evidence so as to glean from it every particle of information. We have a tooth belonging to the Taungs child found at Zimbabwe. Both at Taungs and Zimbabwe are found petroglyphs, causing an identical reaction in the natives living in their vicinity. Although the inference is obvious, although the facts point overwhelmingly in one direction yet it is with trepidation, with a shudder at our own temerity that we put this question to the Scientific world: DID THE TAUNGS MEN BUILD ZIMBABWE?

[Biographical Note: Professor Winslow B. Arrowsmith was born in Chicago on the 17th of November 1878. The son of poor but well-dressed parents of the same name, he soon acquired those habits of industry for which he now justly renowned. Realising early his anthropological aptitude, he gave a good deal of his time to the study of the classics so that should he make a discovery of merit, he would be able to name it correctly. To Professor Arrowsmith belongs the credit of first appreciating the fossiliferous potentialities of S. Africa and of insisting in the teeth of the most stubborn opposition that the day would come when S. Africa would show the world what it could do in the way of fossil production. The wonderful discoveries of the past few years have shown how accurate his views were. We might conclude this brief note by commenting on the extraordinary modesty of the man and on the unusual ideas he has on the dignity of his science. As an example of this it might be mentioned that only after a great deal of persuasion would he allow us to publish his name and describe his discovery.]

P.M.