GIANT EARLY MAN FROM JAVA AND SOUTH CHINA

By Dr. FRANZ WEIDENREICH

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Java, which stood in the focus of anthropologists fifty years ago when Eugène Dubois first announced the find of the "missing link," Pithecanthropus erectus, became a cyonsour again when Dr. R. von Koenigswald, of the Geological Survey of Netherlands Indies, made a series of discoveries, each later one always more important than its predecessor. It began, in 1937, with the discovery of a large fragment of a lower jaw found in the Trinil beds of Sangiran. This jaw was much more complete than the one picked up by Dubois from the Trinil beds of Bedung Brubus, in 1891, and later attributed by this author to Pithecanthropus. Then followed the surprising discovery, in 1938, of a skull cap—fragmentary too—but much more complete than Dubois' Trinil skull which it resembles as one egg another in general form as well as in details. This specimen proved beyond the slightest doubt that Pithecanthropus is morphologically not a giant gibbon, and as such intermediate between ape and man, as Dubois insisted, but a true hominid very like the Peking man, Sinanthropus pekinensis. In 1939, von Koenigswald's native collector picked up an upper jaw from the same site from which the skull cap of 1938 had come. This jaw, almost complete, but slightly crushed, was the second surprise. It was in all dimensions larger than any known fossil or recent human jaw; there was a fairly wide gap between the canine and the incisor; the canine was not tuselike but showed all the peculiarities of the Sinan-
99 (2581)

Science 99 (2581), 479-498.