Stockholm is the chief cultural as well as the industrial and commercial centre of Sweden. It is the seat of the principal learned societies and royal academies, as well as of the Caroline Institute, the leading medical school of the country, and the University of Stockholm. There are technical schools giving courses in agriculture, forestry, mining, engineering, etc., and renowned museums of art, antiquities, natural history, and anthropology.

The city has a good harbour, kept open by ice breakers during the winter. It is noted for its iron and steel products: dairy machinery, bridges, engines, turbines, and pneumatic tools. Other industries include shipbuilding, tanning, manufacturing of textiles and pottery. Population, about 422,000.

STOMACH. When you swallow a mouthful of food, the first stopping-place of that food is the stomach, an irregular cone-shaped bag, which is one of the principal digestive organs of the body. When it is empty, it hangs almost vertical; when filled, it swings obliquely or crosswise in the abdomen.

Four layers of tissues, called coats or tunics, form this bag. From inside to outside they are the mucous, submucous, muscular, and serous. The muscular coat makes this bag very elastic. Ordinarily it is about 12 inches long and 4 inches across, holding about three pints, but the ability to stretch enables it to hold more. There are two openings into this bag: one at the top, opening from the gullet (or œsophagus), called the "cardiac orifice," and the other, opening into the small intestine, and called the "pyloric orifice."

In the mucous lining of the stomach are found certain cells or glands, whose business it is to manufacture the gastric juice. This is one of the digestive fluids, and is made up largely of water, salts, hydrochloric acid, pepsin, and rennin. The peculiar churning movement of the stomach mixes the food with this liquid, which dissolves it and also changes certain parts of it. (*See* Digestion.)

STONE AGE. A rough stone was the first weapon and the first tool used by man. We may imagine a man climbing down from his tree home, and finding a nut too hard even for his strong teeth. He picks up a stone and crushes the nut. He has invented the first hammer.

Then man began gathering stones, little round ones to throw at birds and small animals, and heavy ones to crack oysters and nuts. Perhaps he cut himself with a sharp stone and so discovered the first knife or hatchet.

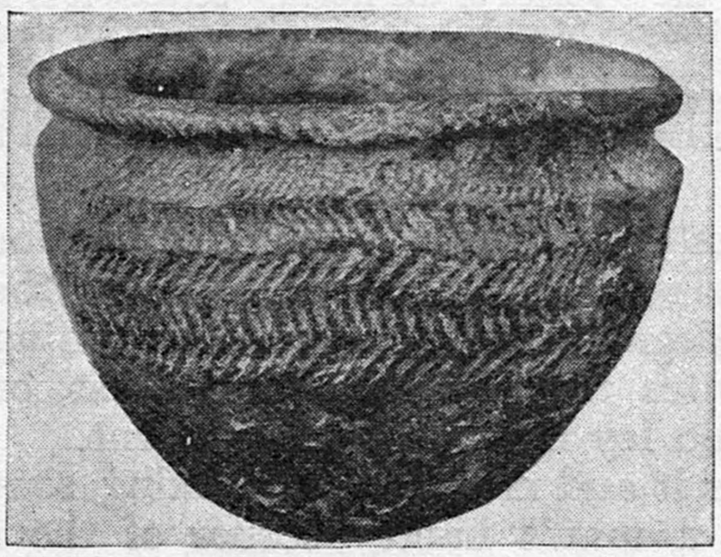
Some thousands of years later the descendants of these early tree-dwellers became dissatisfied with the shape of their stone tools and weapons. One of them succeeded in chipping a piece of flint into a more useful shape. With him began what scientists call the Old Stone Age or the Palæolithic Age.

A Very Important Discovery

The discovery that flint would flake off and leave sharp edges must be ranked as one of the great discoveries of that early world. It enabled man to wage successful war against wild beasts and to obtain food by hunting large game. Thus he developed the energy and confidence which enabled him to make further steps forward in civilization.

For perhaps 150,000 years the rough chipping of flint for spears and hatchets, knives and arrows, continued. The workmanship became finer, and new tools were invented for scraping flesh from skins and for drilling and cutting bone and horn. Soon these last materials began to be used for weapons, along with stone. Crude fish-hooks were made, and arrows that had their points barbed. This was the age of the Cave Men. (*See* Cave Dwellers.)

A NEW STONE AGE RELIC



The hands that so cunningly shaped this bowl, with its graceful curves and herring-bone decorations, withered into dust untold centuries ago; for this bowl, recovered from the river Thames, dates from the far-off Neolithic times, when our remote ancestors had just learned the art of making pottery.

Later still came the New Stone or Neolithic Age, when men learned to grind and polish the rough edges of their flint tools and weapons, so that a knife would cut more easily and a spear could be driven into an animal more surely. Last came the discovery of metals, chiefly copper and tin, which ended the Stone Age and saw the beginning of the Age of Bronze.

No Date for the Stone Age

It is largely through the study of such old flint weapons that scientists are able to trace the story of early man. No definite date can be assigned to the Stone Age, because this earliest stage in the history of human culture was reached at different periods in different parts. In some places the use of stone implements continued into modern times.

Among the relics which are believed to date back to the Stone Age are monuments of huge rough stones. They consist usually of large single stones (menhirs) set on end in the midst of a plain or of groups of such stones (cromlechs) arranged in circles or squares, or of stones set