

M0006055: Reconstruction of a surgical operation in a late Stone Age culture

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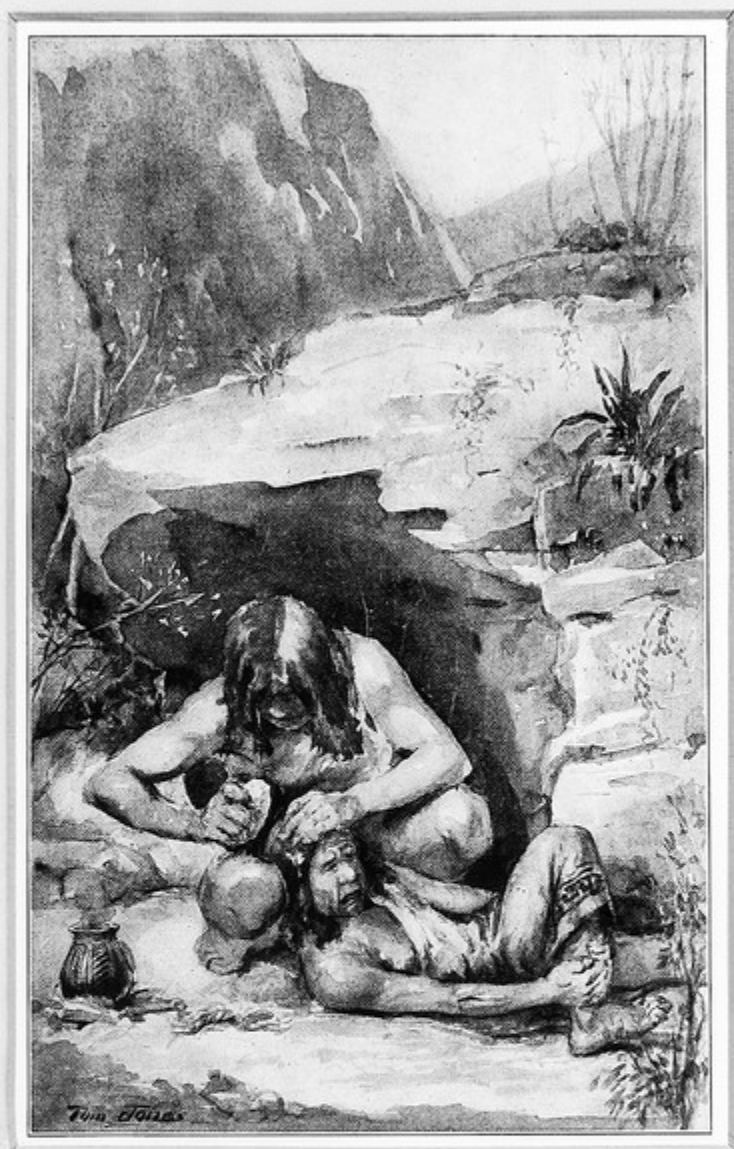
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A RECONSTRUCTION DEPICTING A SURGICAL OPERATION IN A LATE STONE AGE CULTURE



PO. 359-2-3

"THE DRAWING, BASED ON ACTUAL MATERIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE REGION, REPRESENTS A PRIMITIVE BLANKET-CLAD SHAMAN USING THE CAUTERY IN THE HIGHLANDS OF PERU. THE PATIENT IS A WOMAN SUPPOSED TO BE SUFFERING FROM MELANCHOLIA, FOR WHICH THE TREATMENT, AS JUDGED FROM THE SKELETAL REMAINS AND FROM ANALOGY WITH MODERN PRIMITIVE PRACTICES, WAS TO INCISE THE SCALP IN A CRUCIATE INCISION AND INTO THIS OPEN CUT PLACE THE OIL, WHICH IS BUBBLING ON THE SLOW FIRE IN AN APPROPRIATE MEDICINE-MAN'S JAR, WITH THE WISP OF TWISTED FIBRE LYING NEARBY. THE OPERATOR HAS IN HIS CHEEK A QUID OF COCA LEAVES WHICH HE WILL APPLY TO THE WOUND TO EASE THE PATIENT'S DISTRESS. THE WOUND BECAME VIOLENTLY INFECTED AND MADE A HUGE OSSEOUS LESION ON THE WOMAN'S SKULL."