

sumption of shell-fish. The evidence marshalled by Dr. Bulstrode for this connection must, however, go a long way to dispel any doubt, if such exist, of its reality. The evidence, of course, is largely indirect, and comprises such details as these: the greater incidence of enteric among those who eat shell-fish than among those who do not; diminished incidence of enteric coinciding with diminution in the amount of sewage emptying into estuaries, &c.; the "cooking" of shell-fish diminishing the incidence of disease; reduction in enteric fever prevalence coinciding with limitation of the consumption of shell-fish; and (sometimes) seasonal variations in the shell-fish supply coinciding with seasonal variations in disease.

Finally, one of the most important parts of the subject, the administrative control of contaminated shell-fish, is dealt with. The difficulties in this direction are very great. Ineffective efforts at legislation have been made, and, failing success, the authorities concerned have fallen back on the publicity secured by local posters, &c., which, of course, affects the sale of wholesome, as well as of unwholesome, shell-fish. The Fishmongers' Company and several corporations have done excellent work, and one or two local Acts have been obtained (e.g. by the Corporation of Blackburn in 1908) to deal with the matter, but otherwise practically no control, in a sanitary sense, has been exercised over the beds, laying, and cleansing and storing places. Probably the local application, as required of the powers contained in the Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act, 1907, would generally suffice.

The whole report is a very valuable one, and should arouse public attention to the necessity for taking definite action to deal with the subject of the contamination of shell-fish. The report is prefaced by a lucid introduction by Dr. Newsholme, the Board's medical officer, from which we have drawn freely in writing the above.

R. T. H.

THE CHEMISTRY OF MUMMIFICATION.

MR. A. LUCAS has rendered a great service to all who are interested in the customs of the ancient Egyptians and in the history of the methods adopted for the preservation of the body by collecting into one convenient volume the results of his investigations concerning the "Preservative Materials used by the Ancient Egyptians in Embalming," which has been issued as Survey Department Paper No. 12 (Cairo: National Printing Department, 1911).

More than seventy years ago Dr. Pettigrew published an exhaustive account of the chemistry of mummies, so far as this was possible at that time, and he had the assistance of Michael Faraday in his investigations. Since then the whole subject of mummification had fallen into the hands of archaeologists, who invented a curious alchemy of their own for the purpose of interpreting the accounts of Egyptian embalming given by the ancient Greek writers; but during the last ten years this era of sensationalism has received its quietus, and a serious attempt has been made to elucidate by recognised scientific means the nature of the methods of mummification.

Recent investigators have had the immense advantage of having many hundreds of mummies of known age and provenance for every unknown mummy that came into Pettigrew's hands; and the enormous strides in chemical knowledge that the last seventy years have witnessed have made it possible to obtain much more information from the material than was possible before. Most of the embalming materials thus rescued have been analysed by Prof. W. A. Schmidt, of the Cairo School of Medicine, and Mr. Lucas, analyst to the Egyptian Survey Department, and the results of their work have been published in various scientific journals published in Egypt and Europe. Mr. Lucas has collected all this scattered information and added to it in this valuable report. He has also given an extensive bibliography, which, though not quite complete, will be of very real service to archaeologists, who in the past have been at a loss to obtain accurate information upon such matters as are discussed in this work.

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AN IMPERIAL BUREAU OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

WE print below a memorial relating to the formation of an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology, received from the Royal Anthropological Institute. The memorial was sent a few days ago to the secretary of the conference, to Mr. Asquith and each of the other Prime Ministers, and to the Colonial Secretary. Though the matter did not appear on the agenda of the Imperial Conference, we learn that the individual members of the conference are cognisant of the facts, and one or two are desirous of obtaining more information. We trust it will be possible for some action to be taken on the lines suggested by the memorial.

Memorial on the Establishment of an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology presented to the Imperial Conference by the Royal Anthropological Institute.

The Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute desires to submit the following facts for your consideration:—

(1) An important and an integral portion of the problem of Empire is that which is concerned with the relations of the Imperial race with dependent peoples whose history, religion, social structure, and habits of life and thought are far removed from ours.

(2) The social characteristics of the dependent races are being profoundly modified by contact with our civilisation, and experience has shown that habits of life and thought, the products of long ages, have a tendency to disappear under modern conditions.

(3) The council urges, also, that on administrative grounds an exact and an intimate knowledge of the mental attitudes and modes of life of these races is essential to those whose duty it is to govern them.

(4) As the body representing the premier scientific institution in Great Britain whose object it is to promote the organised study of mankind, the council is much concerned with the inevitable loss to science consequent on the extension of our civilisation; but the manners and customs of many semi-savage tribes in the Empire still survive, and are worth the serious attention of the scientific anthropologist. It urges, therefore, that the resources of modern science should be thoroughly and systematically employed in order to record those customs which are of such value and interest to the student of anthropology.

(5) Another important problem of Empire is the physical improvement or deterioration of all the races of the Empire. This can only be ascertained by periodic measurement of children and adults. It is obvious that this work must be controlled from a single centre in order to secure uniformity.

(6) The council desires to point out that the scientific study of anthropology at the universities has made great and marked progress in late years, a gratifying fact which is due in no small measure to the efforts and example of distinguished fellows of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

(7) The number of trained investigators is steadily increasing, and every year sees an advance in the accuracy and thoroughness of the methods of anthropological investigation.

(8) While it is the duty of the universities to organise the study of anthropology, it is the task of the Royal Anthropological Institute to coordinate all branches of that study by the exercise of functions in regard to it analogous to those performed for science in general by the Royal Society.

(9) In these circumstances the Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute seeks the support, moral and financial, of your Governments for a scheme to establish in London, in association with the institute, an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology, in order to secure the systematic investigation by scientific methods, according to a uniform plan, of the anthropology of the dependent and independent races within the British Empire.

(10) The council recognises that this project can be carried to success only if local cooperation and support be freely accorded to it. The methods and procedure of investigation very often must be adapted to local necessities of which the investigator on the spot is alone competent to judge. But it is clearly desirable that within limits there should be uniformity of method for the sake of the com-