

The president's address, read in his absence by Dr. A. W. Ward, of Peterhouse, contained references to the importance of recent discoveries regarding the early Mediterranean civilisations, and laid stress on the value of modern critical ethnology for the correct understanding of the foundations of present-day movements in Europe; while Mr. D. G. Hogarth's paper on Hittites and the Hittite civilisation showed that a beginning has been made in attacking an outstanding problem bearing on the same subject. Prof. E. Bernheim spoke of history as a record of the variation of intellectual viewpoint at different epochs of time. Prof. von Gierke dealt with the evolution of the idea of the right of a numerical majority to control the government of a country. Prof. Pirenne gave a suggestive account of the stages in the growth of capitalism from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries, and described the change from mere subsistence industry and husbandry to the creation of capitalism as an engine by which the advancing intelligence can obtain an increase in knowledge, in material resources, and in control over the forces of nature.

In the subsection devoted to the exact sciences, natural history, and medicine, papers were read by Sir Clifford Allbutt on Palissy, Bacon and the revival of natural science; by Prof. Loria on mathematics in Great Britain; by Prof. Silvanus Thompson on the history of the compass card; by Prof. H. H. Turner on Aristarchus of Samos, and by Mr. Rouse Ball on Newton's *Principia* and also on magic; Dr. Norman Moore gave an account of the Royal College of Physicians, Prof. L. C. Miall illustrated seventeenth-century research by the life of Peiresc, and Mr. W. C. D. Whetham read a paper on the historical method in natural science.

PUBLIC VETERINARY SERVICES.

A DEPARTMENTAL Committee on the Public Veterinary Services was appointed last August by Mr. Runciman to inquire into the requirements of the public services with regard to the employment of officers possessing veterinary qualifications, and to consider whether any further measures can with advantage be adopted for the selection and training of students with a view to such employment. The committee, the report of which has recently been published (Cd. 6575), consisted of Sir A. Hopkinson (chairman), Sir T. H. Elliott, Sir T. W. Holderness, Mr. H. J. Read, and Major G. F. MacMunn. In October Sir T. W. Holderness resigned, and Mr. F. C. Drake succeeded him.

In all twenty-one witnesses were examined, together with a number of written statements of representatives of self-governing Dominions and universities who for various reasons were unable to attend in person. Evidence was given on behalf of the Departments employing veterinary officers, viz., the Colonial Office, India Office, War Office, and the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; also on behalf of the five veterinary colleges, the examining and diploma-granting body

(the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons), and various British universities.

After considering the present system of veterinary education, the committee is of opinion that the standard appears sufficient for the purposes of private practice, but not for the public services, for research and administrative work. The army veterinary department has no difficulty in finding suitable candidates, and, moreover, the first two years of the young officer's service are devoted to the improvement of his education, and to training him for his future work.

The demand for the other public services of veterinary officers has increased, and will almost certainly increase still further. Already great difficulty has been encountered in procuring suitably trained men for the posts, alike at home, in the Colonies, and in India. The most important steps to be taken to improve the quality and quantity of candidates are (1) to encourage a larger number of young men who have continued their general and scientific education beyond secondary-school age to enter the veterinary profession; (2) to provide for men who have qualified as veterinary surgeons increased facilities to extend their knowledge, more especially in the direction of specialisation in one branch of veterinary science; and (3) to improve the system of notifying vacancies.

With these objects in view the committee recommends that: Students possessing a suitable science degree should be exempted from one of the four years at present required for veterinary qualifications; that twelve scholarships should be offered each year of the annual value of 80*l.* each, tenable at a veterinary college for three years, with a view to encourage a number of men who have received a good scientific education to enter the veterinary profession; scholarships of an annual value of not less than 100*l.* and not exceeding 150*l.* should be offered each year to enable qualified veterinary surgeons to undertake advanced study and laboratory work at suitable institutions at home or abroad, where special facilities for such studies exist. The committee further recommends that increased State aid should be given to institutions devoted to veterinary education, the efficiency of which is of great importance to the State. It is of opinion that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons "is performing a work of great national importance, and that its efforts to maintain a high standard of veterinary education in this country are worthy of every encouragement."

NOTES.

THE International Congress of Zoology at Monaco and that of Geography at Rome are over, but another interesting meeting of representatives of the nations took place on April 5, at the Zoological Station, Naples. The occasion was the unveiling of a memorial tablet to the illustrious founder of the station, Prof. Anton Dohrn. The tablet, in bronze, which has been fixed above the fountain on the north side of the