

Descended from a long Oxfordshire ancestry, Staples-Browne inherited a country gentleman's love for ornithology, fishing, and shooting, but biological research was always foremost, and up to his last illness he was planning improvements in the laboratory which he added to the Tudor house he had modernised during the happy married life of his later years. He will be remembered as a most loyal friend, for his charming and courtly manner, for his wide interest in life, and for an early developed power of shrewd criticism in biological subjects. Hampered by long periods of bodily discomfort and occasional disabling illness, the amount and intrinsic value of his contributions to inheritance are a remarkable record of enthusiasm and moral courage defeating odds which would cause most men to relinquish original work.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. J. C. Fields, F.R.S., research professor of mathematics in the University of Toronto, president in 1924 of the International Mathematical Congress, on Aug. 9, aged sixty-nine years.

Dr. T. H. Gronwall, known for his mathematical works, especially on theories of elasticity and differential and integral equations, on May 9, aged fifty-five years.

Dr. George F. Kunz, known for his work in mineralogy in the U.S. Geological Survey, and especially for his work on precious stones, on June 29, aged seventy-five years.

Capt. Poulett Weatherley, one of the earliest explorers of Northern Rhodesia, the Belgian Congo and Tanganyika Territory, and the discoverer of the source of the Congo, aged seventy-two years.

News and Views

Archæological Research and Government Control

A RESOLUTION of the first International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences recently held in London expressed deep regret at the attitude of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities in putting obstacles in the way of the scientific study of Egyptian prehistory; and while expressing respect for the rights of the Egyptian nation to preserve and arrange its documents, requested the Egyptian Government to ensure facilities for study and precautions against action detrimental to research. The opinion of British archæologists, that the attitude of the Department towards archæological exploration by extra-territorial investigators is not in the best interests of science, has frequently been brought to the notice of the Egyptian Government. A resolution which expresses the opinion of a body so widely representative as an international congress may perhaps carry conviction that dissatisfaction with the methods of the Department is not merely the view of sectional interest.

THE situation is admittedly a difficult one. Nor does Egypt stand alone. Similar difficulties are bound to arise whenever a country which calls for exploration in the interests of archæological science is neither financially competent nor intellectually equipped to undertake such exploration on its own behalf. Preservation of finds intact and accessibility of the material for the purpose of study are also important factors in the situation. Archæological investigation unquestionably is being checked in several directions in present conditions. Financial assistance, which in any event is difficult enough to obtain at the present day, is being still further restricted by the uncompromising attitude of those in authority, who are in a position to dictate conditions. The institution of a body such as the Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, which is above sectional interests, would seem to afford opportunity for the formulation of a settled policy which would reconcile, on an equitable basis, the claims of scientific study and research and the rights of national authority, even with the admitted reservation that, other things being equal, national

antiquities are best preserved, exhibited, and studied in their own regional environment.

Future Research Work in Prehistory

BEFORE rising, further resolutions were adopted by the Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences. The invitation to hold the next meeting at Oslo was accepted; and the president-elect, Prof. A. W. Brøgger, of Oslo, who has acted as joint general secretary of the first meeting, was inducted into the chair by Sir Charles Peers, the retiring president. It was then resolved that research committees should be appointed to investigate specific problems and carry out certain specified pieces of work. One committee will investigate the relations which subsisted between the Ægean world and the Balkans and Danubian countries. Another is to study problems related to the civilisation of the western Mediterranean. Prof. Gordon Childe has been entrusted with the compilation of an international vocabulary of technical terms in archæology, with the co-operation of all countries represented at the Congress; while it is an instruction to the organising committee of the next Congress to investigate the possibility of a report on the systems of classification adopted by different schools of archæology.

Dental Mutilation in Early Times

ON page 284 of this issue we publish a summary of Sir Arthur Keith's report to the first International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences on the human skeletal remains discovered by Miss Garrod in Palestinian caves in association with a mesolithic culture. The report directs attention to certain cultural practices for which the skeletal material affords evidence, such as the evulsion of the upper incisors and the practice of cannibalism. In the discussion which followed the presentation of the report, Prof. Elliot Smith expressed doubt as to chronology, and questioned the high antiquity of the practices to which Sir Arthur had referred the conditions observed in the skeletal material. In a letter on the Oldoway skeleton, which appears in the August issue of *Man*,