

## The University of Rangoon

By Prof. D. H. PEACOCK

IN July 1931, the University of Rangoon held its annual Convocation for the first time in the new Convocation Hall, the Training College opened its new buildings, and in November of the same year University College and Judson College moved into the science wings of their new buildings, of which the arts wings had already been in use for some time. The work of building the University of Rangoon is thus virtually complete.

The buildings in existence in 1920 were quite unsuited to the needs of a modern university, and while the constitution of the new University was under consideration, tentative projects for new buildings were drawn up. Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, when Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, had wisely reserved

largely due the provision of the necessary funds, and to Sir Benjamin Heald, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

The Government of Burma set aside a sum not exceeding £780,000 for the buildings and their ancillary services. The Building Trust had not only to erect new buildings for the existing colleges—University and Judson—but also to build a Convocation Hall for the University, a Training College for Teachers, and houses for the staff and servants of the colleges and the University. In addition, much that is usually provided by local authorities had to be provided by the Building Trust; roads had all to be made, wells had to be sunk and a waterworks erected, and septic tanks and a complete system of sanitation had to be



FIG. 1.—University College, Rangoon.

a site of some four hundred acres about five miles from Rangoon on the southern shore of the Victoria Lake, and, in December 1922, Sir Reginald Craddock, Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, laid there the foundation stone of the new Convocation Hall. No provision had at this time been made for funds for the new buildings and no body had been authorised to carry out the work, but both matters received early attention from Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, who returned to Burma as Governor in January 1923. In 1925 the Government of Burma constituted a Building Trust of fifteen members, of whom four were elected by the University, to carry out the erection of the University buildings with the exception of the Medical College. The full-time services of Mr. M. J. Sheehy were placed at the disposal of the Trust as executive engineer, and as occasion arose the Trust was also able to utilise the services of Colonel Longdin and Mr. C. C. Codrington for the water supply, sanitation, and mechanical ventilation and of Mr. Eades for the electrical installation. The first chairman of the Building Trust was Sir Robert Giles, and he was succeeded by Sir Oscar de Glanville, who has completed the work. The University is also greatly indebted to Sir Charles Innes, Governor of Burma since 1928 and Chancellor of the University, to whose sympathetic consideration is

provided. It should be mentioned that the American Baptist Mission defrayed half the cost of the erection of Judson College.

The Convocation Hall, the buildings of University and Judson Colleges, and the Training College for Teachers are of steel-framed brick coated with white plaster. University College (Fig. 1) consists of six blocks of buildings joined by a colonnade running north and south. The College Library is one hundred and forty feet long and thirty feet wide, and behind it are the College Hall and students' common rooms. On either side of the library block are the north and south arts wings; each is a three-storied building approximately two hundred and fifty feet long and forty feet wide. At the back of the College are the three science wings, which are of the same height and exterior appearance as the arts wings. The north science wing contains the physics department and, on part of the top floor, the geology department. The middle wing is devoted to the chemistry department. The south wing contains the departments of forestry, botany, and zoology and the institute of helminthology. All the science wings are approximately two hundred and twenty feet long, the north and middle wings are forty feet wide, and the south wing is thirty feet wide. Communication to rooms in all the teaching blocks is

by a deep verandah on the south side. All windows and doors are steel-framed; the floors are for the most part parquet floors of Burmese teak. The verandah floors, however, and the floors of some of the laboratories are of salemite. The physics and chemistry laboratories deal with some four hundred students a week, the majority being pre-intermediate students. Post-graduate work is undertaken by very few students. The buildings of Judson College are similar in plan to those of University College but smaller.

The College buildings are separated by a short distance from their hostels. University College has eight men's hostels, each able to accommodate about one hundred and twenty students and managed by a warden, an assistant-warden, and tutors. Five of these hostels have a central dining-hall, while the other hostels have their own dining-halls. The hostel fees of men students, which include board and lodging, amount to about £2 a month. In addition to these hostels for men, there is a hostel for women students, which accommodates about one hundred and twenty students and is managed on similar lines to the men's hostels. Judson College has two men's hostels and one women's hostel, all similar in construction to those of University College. All except three of the hostels are built of red brick and were designed by Mr. S. P. Bush, Government architect, Burma. The hostels of all the colleges can together accommodate about 1300 men students and about 300 women students. Both Colleges have large playing fields.

The University Convocation Hall is situated near the lake front at the north end of the estate, with the main buildings of University and Judson Colleges to east and west of it. It can hold some two thousand people and is one of the most striking buildings in Rangoon. It is a steel-framed brick building coated with cement plaster, and has a parquet flooring of Burmese padauk and is panelled with yinma, one of the most beautiful of the lighter-coloured Burmese hardwoods. The main doors are of bronze and open on to marble steps covered by a bronze marquise. The Convocation Hall, the main buildings of University and Judson Colleges, the University Library, and three of the University College hostels were designed by Mr. T. O. Foster.

The University Library was the gift of a generous donor who did much for the cause of education in Burma, Raja Dr. Reddiar, and has been built at a cost of some £15,000. The bookstack is to be fitted with an air-drying plant which will be, so far as is known, the first of its kind to be used in any library. The colleges already possess quite well-stocked general libraries, and the University Library is being devoted mainly to Oriental studies, including language, history, and art. In this connexion, University College has established a lectureship in Far Eastern history, and a considerable amount of work is being done in the University on the history of Burma.

The University Students' Union building and the University gymnasium, both designed by Mr. T. O. Foster, were the gifts respectively of Dr. Tun Nyo and Mr. Chan Chor Khine. Both buildings are well equipped for the purposes for which they are used.

The Teachers' Training College, designed by Mr. Armstrong, is situated in the southern part of the estate, and in addition to administrative and teaching buildings and hostels for men and women students, contains two practising schools, one for boys and one for girls, each with hostel accommodation for resident pupils. Provision has also been made for training in kindergarten work, and it is hoped that the College will supply what is the most urgent educational need in Burma, namely, well-trained teachers for the schools. The normal schools did excellent work in the face of great difficulties, but they lacked the resources now at the disposal of the Training College.

The engineering department of University College is housed in a set of buildings some half-mile distant from the main College buildings. For their erection a most munificent donation of £100,000 was made by the Burma Oil Company, and part of this donation has been used as an endowment towards the necessarily heavy expenses of upkeep.

Housing accommodation for the staffs of the constituent colleges and of the University has been provided by the Building Trust, which also has built a sanatorium for the students, a book-shop, a post office, a village for the servants of the colleges and the University, and quarters for the staff of the University training corps.

### The Late Palæolithic Inhabitants of Palestine \*

THE skeletal material of late palæolithic age from Palestine, upon which Sir Arthur Keith reported to the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences at a meeting held on Aug. 3, was collected by Miss Dorothy Garrod from deposits in caves at Shukbah in the Judæan Hills in 1928, and on Mount Carmel in 1929, 1930, and 1931. For the industry with which the remains were associated, a new mesolithic industry, Miss Garrod proposes the name 'Natufian', after one of the sites on which it was found. An account of this industry was communicated to the Congress by Miss Garrod at a subsequent meeting held on Aug. 5.

Sir Arthur proposes that the people represented by these remains should also be known by the name of 'Natufian'; for, in his opinion, they were a peculiar people, not to be identified with any living race. They have affinities with the neolithic people of Malta, with the negroid element represented among European peoples in the Aurignacian period, and, more distantly, with the predynastic inhabitants of Egypt and the late palæolithic people of North Africa. Among living

peoples they approach most nearly to the Mediterranean race.

At Shukbah, remains of 45 individuals were found—25 adults (9 males and 16 females), 17 children, and 3 adults of indeterminate sex. At Mount Carmel, on the terrace in front of the cave, was a veritable cemetery: 87 individuals were represented—35 adult males, 23 adult females, 23 children, and 6 indeterminate. The proportion of the remains representing a complete skull or skeleton is small. Only 20 individuals afford skull size and shape, and in many cases allowances have to be made for distortion due to pressure.

There are, however, several features which stand out definitely. They were a dolichocephalic people with a cephalic index varying from 72 to 78; they had cap-shaped occiputs; the dimensions of the head are greater than in the predynastic Egyptians. They were prognathous, the sub-nasal prognathism being marked. The nasal bones formed a wide low arch; and the chins were not prominent. Many had big heads.

The stature was low, few men exceeding 1.650 m. (5 ft. 5 in.), most being about 1.600 m.; the women were about 1.524 m. (5 ft.). A striking character is the strong development of the bones of thigh and leg

\* Substance of a paper read before the First International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, London, Aug. 1-6, by Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S.