

wide and detailed knowledge of social institutions, customs and beliefs, enriched by the information collected in an ethnographical survey, which he conducted in 1902-9, appeared to advantage in his "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" (1909), in which he added to his own observations a digest of a vast amount of other material. No less remarkable in the character of its observations and its originality was "Omens and Superstitions of Southern India", a book which has proved of the greatest interest and value to students of folklore and religion.

Thurston was ever generous in placing his material at the disposal of others. Not only were his researches of the greatest utility to Sir Herbert Risley in his ethnographic survey work in India, but also it was largely owing to Thurston's assistance, which extended from the organisation of transport to counsel and information in matters of ethnographic detail, that the late Dr. W. H. R. Rivers owed, as he himself acknowledged, the remarkable achievement of his anthropological investigations among the Todas of the Nilgiri Hills. Thurston's retirement was a loss to anthropological studies in the Madras Presidency, of which the effect is still apparent. No one has quite taken his place.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. G. Buchbock, professor of chemistry in the University of Budapest, aged sixty-six years.

Dr. H. W. Dudley, O.B.E., F.R.S., of the National Institute for Medical Research, known for his work in biochemistry, on October 3, aged forty-seven years.

Prof. Rhoda Erdmann, director of the Institute for Experimental Cytology in the University of Berlin, and editor of the *Archiv für Experimentelle Zellforschung*, on August 23, aged sixty-four years.

Mr. G. H. Hamilton, official astronomer in the Jamaica branch of the Harvard Observatory in 1922-24, and since 1924 astronomer of the Hamilton Observatory, Mandeville, Jamaica, on August 6, aged fifty-one years.

Mr. W. K. Laurie-Dickson, who was associated with Mr. Edison in studies of the Edison effect, and for many years superintendent of the Edison Electrical Works, on September 28, aged seventy-five years.

Major R. F. Stirling, director of veterinary services, Central Provinces, India, known for his work on animal diseases, especially rinderpest, on August 16, aged forty-eight years.

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## News and Views

### Safeguarding of Peace

"COLLECTIVE Security" is a problem which to-day is thrust upon the notice of every newspaper reader. Few of them are aware that to the scientific investigation of this same problem in international relations two whole years have just been devoted by a score of national groups and institutions affiliated to the Permanent International Studies Conference. At the London session of the Conference, held last June, the investigations culminated in a discussion directed more particularly to four essential aspects of the subject: the notion of collective security, the prevention of war, determination of the aggressor and sanctions, and the question of neutrality. The major portion of the deliberations was devoted to the principle of the organisation of pacific systems destined to eliminate the causes of war to the fullest possible extent. In connexion with the repression of war, the discussion turned on regional agreements and the relative value of various forms of sanctions, notably economic and military. There followed an examination of the notion of neutrality and the different forms it may assume when the collective machinery set up for the safeguarding of peace has to be put into operation. The subject chosen for the next Study Conference to be held in 1937 is 'Peaceful Change', with special reference to questions of (a) population, migration and colonisation, and (b) markets and the distribution of raw materials. The proceedings of the London session are summarised in Appendix 6 to the Report of the International Committee on

Intellectual Co-operation (League of Nations Publications, 1935, 12, 42. Allen and Unwin, 2s. 6d). The same report outlines definite proposals submitted by M. Jean Gérard, secretary-general of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, for establishing closer collaboration between the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and the International Council of Scientific Unions. The proposals are to be laid before a special committee of this Council, appointed to deal with the subject.

### New Commission of the R.R.S. *Discovery II*

THE Royal Research Ship *Discovery II* left London on October 3 on her fourth Antarctic commission. The voyage is expected to last for some twenty months, and, as on former occasions, the work is primarily concerned with observations on the distribution and environment of the whales which form the basis of the southern whaling industry. According to the programme which has been arranged, the ship, after calling at Cape Town, will circumnavigate the Antarctic continent, returning to South Africa in June 1936. The distribution of whales near the ice edge will be examined in each sector of the Antarctic, and series of stations with full observations on the hydrology and plankton will be taken on lines extending from the pack ice to the warmer waters north of the Antarctic convergence. This circumnavigation is being made in the summer months, and will be complementary to that undertaken in the winter of 1932. The work is controlled by the *Discovery* Committee

acting under the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The present voyage is under the leadership of Mr. G. E. R. Deacon, with Lieut. L. C. Hill, R.N.R., in executive command. The other members of the scientific staff are Mr. J. W. S. Marr and Dr. F. D. Ommanney, with Mr. A. Saunders as laboratory assistant and photographer.

#### Racial Studies

A NEW publication devoted to racial studies may count with certainty on an interested audience at the present moment, when racial questions have come to have an outstanding importance in international and national affairs. Racial characters have ceased to be regarded as of purely academic interest; but since they have been made the pivotal factor in nationalist propaganda, the public, bewildered by conflicting statements as to the meaning and province of 'race' in the modern world, welcomes an impartial and scientific examination of both general and specific problems. The *Zeitschrift für Rassenkunde und ihre Nachbargebiete*, which has completed its first volume by the issue of a third part in May last, has been founded for the purpose of examining problems of race on scientific lines, dealing not only with broader issues, but also investigating racial problems as they arise in defined areas and specific groups. The treatment of the subject is not confined to discussion of physical characters alone, but will take into account the evidence of psychology and social anthropology, prehistory and linguistics. It is proposed thus to cover the whole field of the racial problems which arise in the study of the development of man in time and space. The editor is Egon, Freiherr von Eickstedt, director of the Anthropological and Ethnological Institute of Breslau; and he has secured a promise of co-operation and collaboration from a large and representative body of anthropologists from all over the world. Two volumes of three parts each will be published annually at a subscription price of 22 gold marks for each volume. The first part of the second volume appeared in July.

#### Food of Peking Man

AN interesting light is thrown on the mode of life of Peking man in a communication by Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, of the Department of Palaeontology, University of California, and research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C., which is issued in the *News Service Bulletin* of the Institution. It would appear that Peking man supplemented the meat diet provided by the game animals of the hills and plains by vegetable food, which he obtained as a 'food-gatherer'. About twenty feet above the lowest level of human occupation in the Chou-kou-tien cave and in a breccia containing numerous quartz artefacts and bone fragments, there is a layer several inches thick, made up of thousands of fragments of the shells of seeds. The markings on the shells indicate that they are hackberry seeds, globular bodies smaller than peas. The modern hackberry (*Celtis*) occurs as a small tree in the forests

both of North America and Asia, but is most characteristic as a shrub on semi-arid slopes and stream borders. As it is improbable that they could have been introduced into the cave by any other agency than animals or man, it may safely be assumed that they formed part of the food of one or the other, their shells having been crushed while being eaten. In the United States the berries are extensively used as food by birds, rodents and the Indians, especially in the south-west. The most common use is as a flavouring for meat or bread. In order to eliminate the possibility of these seeds having been introduced into the cave by rodents, experimental observations have been made in which it was found that monkeys alone broke up the shells in a manner corresponding to that in which the shells in the cave had been broken. It is, therefore, more than probable that the seeds were brought to the cave by human agency and that the hackberry seeds afford the earliest known example of a vegetable food used by primitive man.

#### New Flying Boats for British Empire Air Lines

IT is announced that Imperial Airways have placed an order with Messrs. Short Bros., Ltd., of Rochester, for a fleet of flying boats specified to be both larger and faster than any of a similar class now in existence. The order provides several innovations, the most startling of which is that the type of engine will not be decided until absolutely necessary for the completion of the design. It will thus be possible to take advantage of accumulating experience in the use of several different types, some of which are as yet not very thoroughly tried out under such conditions. It is also understood that the number of machines to be ordered is not yet settled, but will depend upon their suitability for the varying conditions in the different Empire routes. The new boats are to be high-wing monoplanes, without external bracing, and carrying wing tip floats. These will be the first marine aircraft in Imperial Airways fleet to depart from the more usual biplane construction. The size of the hull is such that the forepart can be given two decks, the upper one for the crew, ship's offices, and cargo, and the lower one for passengers. Their total loaded weight will be 17½ tons, about 30 per cent increase upon the present largest boat in Imperial Airways service, of which 3½-5 tons is available for paying load, depending upon the length of the flight between refuellings. The estimated speed is nearly 200 miles per hour, with a range of up to 1,500 miles. This allows them to undertake the two longest stages on the all-Empire route (except the Atlantic), that is, between England and Gibraltar, and Australia and New Zealand.

#### History of Medicine Congress at Madrid

AT the International Congress of the History of Medicine, held at Madrid on September 23-29, under the patronage of the President of the Spanish Republic, there was an exhibition of medical manuscripts, documents, instruments, etc. The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum contributed some interesting