the grants which had enabled him to carry out research in meteorology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London for three years; and he stressed the great benefit which could be conferred on science by the endowment of scholarships in meteorology which would permit post-graduate students to study meteorology in Great Britain. Dr. Keen's presidential address dealt with the subject of "What happens to the Rain?" An annual rainfall of 30 in. means that 3,000 tons of water fall on an acre of land. In the course of the year this all disappears, by run-off, evaporation, transpiration through vegetation, and by downward percolation. The relative importance of these factors in British and overseas conditions was discussed. It is only in recent years that the true picture of the movement of water in the soil has been built up. In consequence, some of the traditional practices need revision, while others now have a different explanation. The new work has also clarified some of the concepts used in hydrology.

Opening of Griffith Institute of Archæology, Oxford

THE Griffith Institute of Archæology, an extension of the Ashmolean Museum of the University of Oxford made possible by the generous benefaction of the late Prof. F. Ll. and Mrs. Griffith, was declared open on January 21 by Sir Frederic Kenyon in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. G. S. Gordon, president of Magdalen College, and a large assembly of distinguished guests. Sir Frederic, speaking as an old friend of Prof. and Mrs. Griffith, said that never had he known a man more single-minded and more tolerant of the work of others than Prof. Griffith. The Griffith Institute would fill one of the great gaps in the equipment of the archæologist. The Vice-Chancellor and Mr. E. T. Leeds, keeper of the Ashmolean, also paid generous tribute to the memory and work of Mr. and Mrs. Griffith. The building in which the Institute is housed is of four floors, erected to the design of Mr. E. Stanley Hall. Three floors are allotted to Egyptology and Assyriology, while the ground-floor is given up to other activities of the Museum. The greater part of the Griffith library is housed in the Institute, and accommodation is provided for the professor of Egyptology and the reader in Assyriology. Space is available for the compilation of the topographical bibliography of Egyptian hieroglyphic texts and other research work, while a large store-room will provide for the Egypt Exploration Society's collection of papyri, which has been transferred from Queen's College, and the collections of ostraka and other material used for purposes of teaching. The University's collection of cuneiform tablets will be arranged in the rooms devoted to Assyriology.

Proposed Museum of Romano-British Archæology

LORD EUSTACE PERCY, Rector of the Newcastle Division of the University of Durham, has issued an appeal for funds for the erection of a Museum of Romano-British Archæology, devoted to the area of the Roman Wall at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in connexion with the University of Durham. The proposal arises out of a recommendation of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries made two years ago, which had in view the need both of facilities for study of the area of the Wall and also of the requirements of the magnificent collections of Romano-British antiquities belonging to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, the main source of information concerning the Roman frontier in Britain and settlements adjacent, which have been brought together in the course of the last hundred years, and are now somewhat inadequately housed in the medieval Black Gate of the Castle. The Society has generously expressed its willingness to place its collections at the disposal of the University for this purpose, subject to certain conditions. Although the erection of such a museum had been contemplated in the projected building scheme of the University, it had been set aside for the moment in view of more urgent needs; but it has now been brought within the range of practicable proposals by the offer of a grant of £5,000 from the University Grants Committee, provided the further sum required to make up the total estimated expenditure of £20,000 is raised within a period of two years. The Museum will not be confined to Romano-British antiquities but will include all relics obtained from the area of the Wall, both prehistoric and of post-Roman date down to the Norman conquest. Subscriptions are being received by Lord Eustace Percy at King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.

Testing Electric Meters and Appliances

THE opening of large extensions by the Lancashire Electric Power Co. on January 16 of its department for testing electric meters and electric appliances shows how rapidly this branch of the firm's work is developing. That part of the firm's revenue which depends upon meter registrations now exceeds a million pounds per annum, while the number of meters issued has almost quadrupled during the last nine years. A great deal of the extra work done is in connexion with household appliances, offered by the firm on hire and hire-purchase terms. These are installed and maintained by the testing department. The number of domestic appliances connected, such as cookers, water heaters, fires, kettles, etc. increased in number from 400 in 1930 to 10,700 in 1934 and to 38,000 last year. In the last two years, 2,000 thermostatically controlled cookers have been issued to customers. Nearly all the domestic consumers pay on a two-part tariff with a power charge of 0·5–1*d*. per unit. All meters are tested when removed from service, after which they are reconditioned and certified. A small cleaning room is provided for exceptionally dirty meters, the equipment of which includes a powerful blower and an extractor fan. At the opening ceremony, it was stated that an electricity meter is not only one of the cheapest but also one of the most accurate things the firm has on the market. Since 1936, all cookers offered by the firm have had automatically controlled ovens. Their thermostats are checked for consistency and the enamel is tested for durability. Tests include temperature measurements every