

is $3\frac{1}{2}$ metres long, and not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres wide. An unusual feature of the outer sarcophagus is the decoration on both the upper and under surface of the cover. On the upper surface is a full length image of the king dressed as Osiris. Broken features of the image of the inner sarcophagus suggest that it was damaged when being introduced into the tomb.

Antiquity : a Sutton Hoo Number

Antiquity of March last is devoted to a detailed account of the discovery, excavation and finds of the Sutton Hoo ship-burial. The excavation is described by Mr. C. W. Phillips, who points out that until 1939 the archaeology of Britain in Anglo-Saxon times has had to concern itself little with either ship-burials or to a great extent with rich burials of any kind, for omitting those of Kent, and a few important burials at Taplow, Broomfield and elsewhere, the most striking feature of Anglo-Saxon graves is their almost universal poverty. In the more detailed description of the finds Mr. T. D. Kendrick gives accounts of the gold ornaments, the large hanging bowl and the jewellery; the silver is described by Mr. Ernst Kitzinger, and a summary account of the coins is contributed by the editor, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford. Mr. W. F. Grimes is responsible for a description of the methods followed in salvaging the finds, "an exciting and exacting task, extending over more than a week", in which he was first called to participate when the gold purse and its trappings had been found. Serious problems were presented by corrosion, but their solution called for no new and elaborate technical methods, but rather the application of simple readily available means to deal with an unexpected range of materials, each apart from the gold objects with its own set of problems. The identity of the individual whom the mound and its contents commemorated is discussed in full detail by Dr. H. Munro Chadwick, who accepts the possibility that it may have been the cenotaph of a king lost at sea—the editor of *Antiquity* here points out that there never has been question of a burial. After discussion of the various possibilities Dr. Chadwick elects for Redwald (*ob. c.* 624–5) as the most probable. The series of photographs accompanying these contributions constitutes a valuable record of this notable find.

Indian Farming

THIS new monthly magazine, issued by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, replaces the bi-monthly *Agricultural and Livestock in India*, published by the Council since 1931. The aim of *Indian Farming* is to present scientific information in a popular form, and to form a link between the research worker and the cultivator. The format of the new journal is more pleasing than that of its predecessor and should appeal to a wider public. The contents include original articles on agricultural science, short notes on selected research work, reports from research stations, "answers to correspondents", practical hints to farmers, and book reviews. The popularization of agricultural science is a task as difficult as it is important, and the

editorial committee is to be congratulated on its good beginning in seeking the happy mean between over- and under-simplification. The first article, by Sir Jagdish Prasad, on agricultural research in war, puts in a timely plea for the continuation of pure research during a period of stress when the demands for immediate results are most pressing.

Fluorescent Enamel Paints

THE Continental Lithograph Corporation, 952 East 72nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio, has put on the market a series of 'enamel paints' (Conti-Glo Fluorescent Lacquer Enamels) with which brilliant fluorescence effects can be obtained when they are illuminated by radiation in the 'near ultra-violet'. Such a radiation can be conveniently obtained from tungsten filament lamps having bulbs of 'black' glass; these are supplied by the same Company. They are mounted in aluminium reflectors in order to concentrate the ultra-violet energy on the enamelled surface.

Tested with a mercury vapour lamp screened by a plate of ultra-violet transmitting glass, the samples appear to justify the maker's claims. The colours include white, pink, and orange, with various yellows, greens, and blues. Moreover, the fluorescent hue is markedly different in some cases from that of the paint in ordinary light; thus a cream paint becomes a green in the ultra-violet and a rose colour fluoresces red, while a white becomes a blue. These enamels have interesting possibilities for entertainment and decoration. They are said to be easily applied by ordinary spraying and brushing methods, and can even be applied (diluted with lacquer-thinner) to fabrics.

Saliva Superstitions

THE December issue of *Folk-Lore* contains a richly documented article on this subject by Miss Rachel Sclare, of Leeds, who illustrates the medicinal and curative properties attributed to saliva throughout the ages and different parts of the world by quotations from the New Testament, the writers of classical antiquity (Theocritus, Tacitus and Pliny), the Middle Ages (Hildegard of Bingen, Maimonides, and Albertus Magnus), and modern times (Brand, Tylor and Frazer). The diseases for which saliva has been used both as a curative and less frequently as a prophylactic measure are numerous, and include sore eyes, blindness, rheumatism, headache, toothache, warts, burns, wounds, etc. As a prophylactic, saliva has been employed as a protection against infectious diseases and as an antidote to poisons, as well as a means of averting ill-luck. The belief in the magical properties of saliva, which still flourishes not only in primitive races but even in England as well as in other civilized countries, appears to be founded on the supposition that this secretion possesses a vital force closely connected with man's blood and the whole of his person.

The Bed of Procrustes

A WITTY and amusing paper with this title was read by Mr. Gordon D. Knox before a meeting of the Tenterden Toc H (Tenterden : K. P. Press, 1940. 1s.).

It will be recalled that, in Greek legend, Procrustes made all travellers who visited him lie on a bed of fixed length, stretching their limbs if they were too short and lopping them off if they were too long. Mr. Knox suggested that this treatment, although murderous when applied to human beings, is beneficial when applied to problems. It is a great advantage to make a wide range of problems conform to one fixed type, namely, that usually known as the method of ratio or proportion. Examples were given of applications to arithmetic, algebra, geometry and applied mathematics.

Books on the History of Science and Medicine

CATALOGUE 55, recently issued by E. P. Goldschmidt and Co., 45 Old Bond Street, W.1, is devoted to bibliography and reference books, particularly those dealing with the history of science and medicine. Attention may be directed to the following items: A. Claudius's "Histoire de l'imprimerie en France" (1900-1914), Du Cange's "Glossarium mediæ et infimæ Latinitatis" (1883-1887), Thomas James's "Catalogue of the Bodleian Library" (1620-1635), J. S. Bailly's "Histoire de l'Astronomie ancienne—Histoire de l'Astronomie moderne—Traité de l'astronomie Indienne et Orientale" (1781-1787), L. Choulant's "Handbuch der Bücherkunde für die æltere Medizin" (1828), John Ferguson's "Bibliographical Notes of Histories of Inventions and Books of Secrets" (1883-1916), John Leland's "Laboryouse Journey and Serche for Englandes Antiquitees" (1549), and Andrew Borde's "Fyrst Boke of the Introduction of Knowledge" (1548).

Aftershocks of the Great Turkish Earthquake

As anticipated by the seismologists at the Istanbul Observatory, aftershocks of the great Turkish earthquake of December 27 (NATURE, January 6, p. 13) still continue, and these have been accompanied by floods possibly due to changes of land-level occasioned by the shocks. The region most affected recently has been near the scene of the original disaster. On April 3, two violent earthquake shocks occurred in the region of Amasya in Anatolia. No casualties are reported. Following torrential rains, the Yesil Irmak and the Tersakar Dere burst their banks, flooding wide areas, including the famous apple orchards near Amasya, and also inundating about thirty villages, some of which have had to be abandoned. Twenty-five villages were cut off by the floods. No casualties have been reported.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever

CEREBRO-SPINAL fever, caused by infection with the meningococcus, was epidemic in Great Britain in 1931 and 1932, some 2,200 cases being notified in each year. The number of cases then declined, and in 1935 and 1936 the annual total was about 900. Since then there has been again a rise, to 1,500 cases in 1939. In the first seven weeks of this year there were 1,753 cases, and 623 new cases were notified in the week ending March 2. In view of the prevalence of this epidemic, the Ministry of Health has issued

a "Memorandum on Cerebro-Spinal Fever" (Memo. 234/Med. H.M. Stationery Office. 2d. net). It discusses the epidemiology of the disease, the control of contacts (who may be carriers of the meningococcus) and diagnosis, and describes the treatment and general measures of prevention. Formerly, the administration of anti-meningococcal serum was the only specific treatment, and is still desirable in the very acute cases. Treatment has, however, now been revolutionized by the use of the drugs sulphapyridine and sulphanilamide, and full directions are given as regards dosage and method of administration.

Announcements

PROF. WALTER W. STEWART has been elected to succeed Mr. John D. Rockefeller, jun., who has retired from his position both as chairman and as member of the Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Prof. Stewart, who is fifty-five, was during 1928-30 an economic adviser to the Bank of England. In 1931 he was appointed American member of the special advisory committee to the Bank for International Settlements. He is a professor of economics at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

THE Ettore Marchiafava Prize, founded by the University of Rome on October 28, 1938, for the best work on morbid anatomy or general pathology, has been awarded to Profs. Mario Monacelli, director of the clinic for dermatology and syphilis at Messina, and Giulio Raffaele, of the University of Rome.

At the recent annual general meeting of the Institute of Metals, held in London, the following officers were elected: *President*, Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. R. M. Preston; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. S. F. Dorey, Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir George Preece and Mr. A. J. G. Smout; *Treasurer*, Lieut.-General Sir Ronald Charles; *New Members of Council*, Dr. W. E. Alkins, Mr. G. L. Bailey, Captain F. C. Braby, Colonel P. G. J. Gueterbock, and Prof. D. Hanson.

AN after-luncheon lecture will be given at the Chemical Club, 2 Whitehall Court, London, S.W.1, on April 15 by Mr. Arthur Elton, who has taken for his title "The Interpretation of Science by the Film". Mr. Elton is at present at work on the Government scheme, initiated by Sir Kenneth Clark, of propaganda films of a technical nature.

A CONGRESS of Forensic Medicine, Insurance and Criminal Anthropology will be held at Naples during May 30-June 1. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Prof. Gennaro Punzo, Via Luciano Armanni 3, Santa Patrizia.

ACCORDING to a census on June 30, 1939, the total aboriginal population of Australia was 77,269, including 25,712 half-castes. Nearly half the total full-blooded natives were in Western Australia. In New South Wales there were only 794.