

Cultural Section of the Indian History Congress, which met at Calcutta on December 15–17, 1939, requesting the Government of India to reconsider the decision to stop further excavation work on account of financial stringency due to the War. A little discrimination in the terms of the resolution would have been indicative of a juster sense of proportion.

A less partial, though not entirely unbiased, view of the situation in archaeological studies under official control is taken in an analysis of Sir Leonard Woolley's report, which appears in *Science and Culture* (Calcutta) of January and February 1940. In summarizing his views on the recommendations, the author characterizes the proposals as to museum management, the use of museums for educational purposes, on the training of officers, long-period budgets, choice of sites for excavation, and co-operation between the department and educational institutions as being "very sound", and holds that they should be given immediate effect. At the same time he claims that they are neither new nor original, and suggests that the attacks on the work of the Archaeological Survey, excepting those relating to excavation and exploration, are largely unjustified and irrelevant, "probably due to his ignorance of Indian archaeology and the methods and practices of service followed by the Government of India". Sir Leonard needs no defender. To refute such charges, as well as much of the criticism to which it is not possible to refer here, it is unnecessary to go outside the pages of the report itself. Such views, however, if general, would not augur well for the future of scientific archaeology in India.

#### The National Physical Laboratory

A NEW Department of Light has been formed at the National Physical Laboratory, to comprise the former Optics Division of the Physics Department and the Photometry Division of the Electricity Department. Mr. T. Smith, head of the Optics Division, has been appointed superintendent of the new department as from April 1, 1940. Dr. E. H. Rayner retired from the post of superintendent of the Electricity Department on March 31, 1940, having attained the normal age limit. He has been succeeded by Mr. R. S. J. Spilsbury, formerly principal scientific officer in the Department.

#### Recent Earthquake Recordings

ACCORDING to a *Times* message, earth tremors were felt on April 12 on the south coast of Newfoundland at the settlements of François and Rencontre. No damage is reported. The earthquake of November 18, 1929, was felt in the same region though the greatest damage was done to submarine cables somewhat to the south, that is, between lat. 44° N. and 45° N. and between long. 55° W. and 57° W. (NATURE, 124, 859; 1939: 127, 609; 1931).

During March, sixteen earthquakes were registered at Kew Observatory, the greatest number on any one day being two on March 28. Most of the earthquakes registered were small, and there appears to

have been a good deal of disturbance due to micro-seisms. The greatest shock recorded was also on March 28 at 16h. 2m. 4s. G.M.T.

At the Dutch Observatory at De Bilt prominent earthquake shocks were registered on March 27 and 28. The former was apparently not registered at Kew, but the latter may have been the one showing the greatest amplitudes of the month at Kew. Dr. G. van Dyk is of the opinion that the *P* waves arrived at De Bilt at 16h. 1m. 57s. G.M.T. and the *S* waves at 16h. 12m. 5s. G.M.T., giving an epicentral distance from De Bilt of approximately 84.2°, assuming a normal depth of focus.

#### Announcements

THE following recent appointments and promotions in the Colonial Service have recently been made: E. O. Longley, veterinary research officer, Nigeria; A. B. S. Boswell, assistant conservator of forests, conservator of forests, Malaya; W. J. Eggeling, assistant conservator of forests, senior assistant conservator of forests, Uganda.

THE World Congress of Faiths will hold its fifth annual meeting at Bedford College, University of London, during July 5–10. The Marquis of Zetland, Secretary of State for India, will preside at the inaugural meeting at 5 p.m. on July 5. The main theme for the Congress will be "The Common Spiritual Basis for International Order". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. Arthur Jackman, Room 336, Abbey House, 2–8 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

A MEDICAL building belonging to the Hebrew University has recently been completed in the Garden of Olives in Jerusalem. It will serve as a medical centre for diseases of all kinds, not only for Palestine but also for the rest of the Near East.

OWING to the need for economy in the use of paper, the Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute has decided that after the completion of the present volume in June, the *Journal of the Royal Sanitary Institute* will be issued quarterly instead of monthly.

A CORRESPONDENT has pointed out that the radiographic contrast medium for urography referred to in a paragraph entitled "X-Ray Photography of the Renal System" in NATURE of March 23, p. 459, is the same substance as the German preparation marketed before the War as 'Uroselectan B'. It is being manufactured in Great Britain and sold as 'Pyelectan' by the Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., and as 'Uropac' by Pharmaceutical Specialities (May and Baker).

ERRATUM.—In NATURE of April 6, p. 529, col. 1, line 15, the reference to the paper by Prof. E. Schrödinger should read "*Preuss. Akad.*, 1930" instead of "*Preuss. Akad.*, 1936".