

traced up to man, he being represented by a mirror with *Homo sapiens* written over the top, so that the visitor might realize himself as the product of evolution. Then followed a few carefully selected exhibits of early times beyond accurate dating. The later period, from 3000 B.C. to 2000 A.D., was illustrated by a long wall-space divided equally for the fifty centuries and showing specimens (especially pottery), maps and labels to illustrate the life of the Old World at each stage. A Newbury school-boy, who had used the Museum to some purpose, was being told by an inspector of things that happened "very long ago". The inspector was pleasantly startled to be told, "Oh, but that was in the La Tène period, quite recent in fact".

The "Corridors of Time" (with H. J. Fleure), "The English Village" (1922), "The Bronze Age and the Celtic World" (1922), "The Beginnings of Civilization" (*J. Roy. Anthropol. Inst.*, 1927), "The Introduction of Civilization into Britain" (*ibid.*, 1928), "The Study of Prehistoric Times" (*ibid.*, 1940), and many other contributions to the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* and to *Man*, as well as to the *Transactions of the Newbury Field Club*, to the "Victoria County History of Berkshire", the books of general exposition "Origins of Agriculture" (1926),

"The Flood" (1930) and "Early Steps in Human Progress" (1933) all gave his ever-developing views of the story of humanity.

No account could be satisfactory without mentioning Westbrook House at Boxford, presided over until her death by Mrs. Peake, always brimming with keen intellectual and artistic interests, especially in amateur drama and singing among village folk. For more than forty-five years, Miss Mary Wilson, aided by her colleague Miss Annie Plumb, were the domestic staff and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Peake and of all who gathered around them. Miss Wilson's help in both dramatic efforts and prehistoric studies were gratefully acknowledged. H. J. FLEURE

We regret to announce the following deaths :

Sir Frank Heath, G.B.E., K.C.B., the first secretary to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, on October 5, aged eighty-two.

Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, emeritus professor of physics in the University of Cambridge, on October 3, aged seventy-six.

Prof. H. C. Plummer, F.R.S., formerly professor of mathematics at the Military College of Science, Woolwich, on September 30, aged seventy.

5/2

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Committee on Defence Research Policy

A WHITE PAPER has been issued announcing the creation of the office of Minister of Defence, who is to be responsible to Parliament for certain subjects affecting the three Fighting Services and their supply. Mr. A. A. Alexander, formerly First Lord of the Admiralty, has been appointed to the new office. Defence as a whole will be in the hands of a Defence Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and including as regular members the Defence Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Service Ministers, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Supply. Referring to research, the White Paper states that the chief problem is to ensure the continued and complete integration of military and scientific thought at all levels. Full account must be taken of scientific effort in all fields, so that the resources of the country may be used efficiently. To this end a Committee on Defence Research Policy is to be formed, with a permanent chairman who will be a man of science of high standing. This Committee will consist of those responsible, from the operational and scientific points of view, for research and development in the Service Departments and the Ministry of Supply; it will advise the Chiefs of Staff on operational questions, and the Defence Committee itself on wider aspects of the problems involved. Much will, of course, depend on the composition of this Committee on Defence Research Policy; but by this arrangement the machinery is available to ensure that full weight will be given to scientific developments in all matters that are likely to concern the defence of the country.

### Consulting Work and Educational Institutions

A STATEMENT issued some time ago by the Joint Council of Professional Scientists dealt with the principles which should govern the acceptance of consulting work by academic men of science (see

*Nature*, 157, 86; 1946). A somewhat similar code is incorporated in "A Statement of Research Policy suggested for Inclusion in Research Policies of Educational Institutions", which has been prepared by the Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers in the United States and published in *Chemical and Engineering News* of June 10. The statement suggests that it should be the policy of educational institutions to undertake as a rule only such research projects sponsored under contract with industry, government agencies, philanthropic or scientific organisations as seem likely to add to the knowledge of fundamental research, are financed on a basis which contributes to the institution's own research fund, and have as objective the training of research workers. Further, they should extend over a period of a year or more, they should not restrict the institution from undertaking other projects or research, and they should be such as cannot advantageously be undertaken by independent research or development laboratories. Besides this suggested policy, which would seem to be open to evasion or abuse, there are in the statement regulations proposed for private consulting service and for co-operative research, the latter specifying the information to be supplied to the institution before work is begun. As regards commercial testing, it is suggested that no routine commercial testing or analysis of materials, substances or products which might be carried out by an independent industrial or commercial laboratory should be permitted, although tests or analyses intended chiefly to develop new scientific facts should be allowed when they are part of a research programme or necessitate apparatus or equipment not available in private laboratories.

### Child Health in Great Britain

A BROADSHEET (No. 248, Child Health and Nutrition) issued by Political and Economic Planning as a study of the services dealing with the nutrition