the address showed clearly that, when a therapeutic substance has been discovered or synthesized, a great deal more remains to be done before it can be released for use. It is necessary to make sure that its pharmacological and therapeutic activities do not vary from batch to batch of the manufactured product. The biological activity of drugs which cannot, for various reasons, be made in a chemically pure state must be controlled by biological tests on animals; and carefully planned and rigidly controlled clinical trials on human patients are done whenever these are possible. Nor must we forget the considerable work required to ensure that the drug is issued in a form in which it shows its characteristic properties, that it is safe and convenient to use and that it remains stable for a reasonable time under the climatic conditions to which it is to be subjected. This task, known as the formulation of medical substances, is the responsibility of the pharmacist.

Discussing the international aspects of drug-production, Dr. Boyes commented on the growing need for close international collaboration between the pharmacists of all nations and indicated the progress made in this respect. The publication by the World Health Organization of an International Pharmacopoeia should help to extend international agreement on standards for drugs and pharmaceutical preparations.

In conclusion, Dr. Boyes discussed the responsibilities of the pharmacist and claimed that modern pharmacy should be, not the handmaid of medicine, but its co-partner with equal responsibilities. His address will evoke much sympathy with this view. Some readers of it will wonder, however, why it does not consider the needs and work of the modern veterinarian, who is, to an ever-increasing degree, collaborating with, and making important contributions to, human medicine. A future which gave us the medical man, the veterinary surgeon and the pharmacist as equal partners in a humanitarian team would indeed be worth living to see. There is much evidence that it will, in fact, be the heritage of a generation not very far removed from the one to which Dr. Boyes belongs.

G. LAPAGE

A NEW FOSSIL MAN FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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IN January 1953, Mr. Keith Jolly, an archaeologist, recovered the major portion of a human calotte from the surface of a wind-eroded site about midway between the village of Hopefield in the Cape Province and the southernmost extension of Saldanha Bay. Only brief preliminary accounts of the Hopefield site and 'Saldanha Man' by A. J. H. Goodwin (*S. Afric. Archaeol. Bull.*, No. 30, 41, Claremont, Cape Town; 5s.) and Prof. M. R. Drennan (*S. Afric. J. Sci.*, 50, 7 (1953); *Illustr. Lond. News*, No. 5971, 480 (Sept. 26, 1953), 2s.) have so far appeared, and even since these were written additional information relating to the discovery has become available. Curiously enough, C. P. Thunberg (1743-1828), who was to succeed Linnæus at Uppsala in 1784, had in his thirtieth year visited the farm Elands-

fontein, on which most of the site lies, and he later described its flora and fauna. The fossiliferous nature of the Elandsfontein deposits, however, did not become apparent until shortly after the Second World War, and credit for ensuring that their possibilities were not neglected must be given to a small committee formed under the chairmanship of Prof. Drennan at the University of Cape Town.

A rare giraffid (*Giriquatherium*) occurs among the fossil mammals, of which the extinct forms are represented most abundantly by the Cape horse and the living forms by several genera of the commoner African antelopes. The fluorine content of the remains of a selected series of the extinct animals, including the giant wart-hog *Mesochœrus*, and that of the human skull-vault, were recently determined in London by C. F. M. Fryd, of the Government Chemist's Department, and there is a remarkable agreement between them. Because of the high rate of fluorination at the site, Dr. K. P. Oakley, of the British Museum (Natural History), who recently inspected it, considers that their geological ages are, within narrow limits, identical. On the basis of faunal and archaeological correlations elsewhere in the Union, he also tentatively supposes that the man of Hopefield should be associated with the Late Acheulean or Fauresmith hand-axes, characteristic of the South African Earlier Stone Age, rather than with the Still Bay points, which typify the Middle Stone Age. Artefacts belonging to both cultures are found on the site; but those of the Still Bay indicate only its earlier or typical phases. No trace of the use of fire has yet been observed.

The human bones, which are being studied by Prof. Drennan, comprise the frontal, both parietals, and the occipital of a young adult subject whose probable sex is regarded as male. Their owner was manifestly different from any normal member of the species *Homo sapiens*, and what is preserved of him bears a strong resemblance to the cranium from the Broken Hill Mine in Northern Rhodesia, accidentally brought to light on June 17, 1921, and now at South Kensington. The most detailed examination of the Rhodesian skull is that made by Dr. G. M. Morant (*Ann. Eugen.*, 3, 337; 1928), who concluded that, although more closely related to certain Neandertaloid types than to modern man, it could be clearly distinguished from both. A striking feature shared by the Hopefield and Broken Hill specimens is the lateral massiveness of the torus, or bony bar, above the orbits—not so pronounced in the Hopefield calotte, of which almost the entire missing left brow-ridge has lately been retrieved—but Prof. Drennan is also impressed with the apparent affinities of the new African find to the far-removed ancient Ngandong hominids of central Java. The results of his investigation will be eagerly awaited in view of the importance they are bound to have for the advancement of knowledge in the field of human palæontology.

OBITUARIES

Sir Thomas Taylor, C.B.E.

THE sudden death on August 29 of Sir Thomas Taylor will be mourned by members of universities and allied bodies throughout the world. Widely known, loved and respected, his untimely death at the age of fifty-eight will come as a cruel blow.