in order that their destination may be the better traced. Further, the traffic in the finished mixture has been somewhat checked by a number of prosecutions, undertaken by Government in the case of imported products, and by a few local authorities in cases where the "blended" butter was sold in this country. But to kill the snake instead of merely scotching it additional weapons are required. Useful measures for this purpose would be: (1) To adopt a recommendation made by a departmental committee some years ago, that a minimal limit for volatile acids should be fixed, below which a presumption should be raised that the butter is not genuine; this would strengthen the hands of the public analyst, and though it would not altogether stop the adulteration, it would restrict its amount and diminish the profits accruing therefrom. (2) To enact that no substance shall be sold as butter if it contains less than 80 per cent. of butter fat; this would prevent the "loading" of butter with curd or "solidified milk." (3) To organise a system of strict inspection of butter factories. (4) To give the Commissioners of Customs greater powers for regulating the admission into this country of adulterated butter and of substances which may be used in the adulteration of butter. (5) Most effective of all would be for the Government of each butter-exporting country to adopt some system modelled on the Netherlands "control" plan of combined inspection and analysis, and to furnish an official voucher of purity, without which the butter would either not be admitted here at all, or only under special conditions of marking. For this, however, we shall have to wait. C. SIMMONDS.

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY IN EGYPT.

ON February 7 a most important discovery was made by Prof. Naville at Thebes. The excavation of the eleventh dynasty temple at Deir el-Bahari, discovered by Prof. Naville and Mr. H. R. Hall, of the British Museum, in 1903, has since been carried on for the Egypt Exploration Fund by these gentlemen, assisted by Mr. E. R. Ayrton. Mr. Ayrton being unable to continue working for the Fund this year, his place was taken by another of the Fund's excavators, Mr. C. T. Currelly, who joined the expedition for the first time this year. During this season work was first carried on by Messrs. Hall and Currelly in the southern court of the temple. Here were discovered some interesting priests' houses (?) of brick, dating from the time of the twelfth to eighteenth dynasties, and the south temenos-wall of the temple. This wall was found to be of the same type as the south wall of the great temple of Queen Hatshepsu, which was thus shown to be in reality the north temenos-wall of the eleventh dynasty temple. Later on Mr. Hall began the excavation of the back part of the temple to see how it ended. He discovered, Prof. Naville says, "the enclosure wall and found that the enclosure was interrupted by a court or wide avenue, lined on both sides by a single row of columns, and directed towards the mountain. The rock had been cut open to make way for the avenue."

Later on, when Prof. Naville reached Thebes and Mr. Hall left for England, work was directed to the exploration of the remains of an eighteenth dynasty building, also in the back part of the temple, which had been discovered by Messrs. Hall and Ayrton in 1904. At the end of this building was made Prof. Naville's splendid discovery, described by him in the *Times* recently. It consists of a cell or chapel excavated in the rock, lined with coloured relief sculptures depicting King Thothmes III. making offerings to the god Amen, and in the midst of it was found intact the original cult-image, a great painted and gilded stone cow, of life size. The cow was the emblem of Hathor, goddess of the western desert-hills, who was specially venerated at Deir el-Bahari. The image was dedicated by King Amenhetep II., the son and successor of Thothmes III. The chapel belongs really, not to the eleventh dynasty temple, although placed at the end of it, but to the great temple of Deir el-Bahari, with which it is contemporary. The great interest of the figure of the cow, besides its importance as a work of art, lies in the fact that this is the first time that an Egyptian cult-image has been found intact in its shrine. The whole chapel and image will be re-erected in the Museum of Cairo. Illustrations of the find were published in the *Graphic* and *Daily Graphic* of March 2.

This discovery is the latest proof of the remarkable nature of Prof. Naville's work for the Egypt Exploration Fund at Deir el-Bahari, which is one of the most interesting sites for archæological work in Egypt, and one of the most productive of interesting small antiquities, chiefly votive offerings to Hathor of the time of the eighteenth dynasty. These often are in the shape of little cows of blue glazed faïence, models of the great cult-images in the various cave-shrines of Hathor, of which the newly discovered chapel is one, the chief being the well known Hathor-shrine, with the red painted reliefs, on the platform of the great temple, found by Mariette many years ago.

The work of the Egypt Exploration Fund, which is now being carried on by Prof. Naville and his assistants alone, needs considerably more monetary support than is at present being extended to it. It is to be hoped that this discovery will act as an incentive to those who are really scientifically interested in the progress of archæological knowledge, no matter by what *person* that progress is effected, to give their help to the Egypt Exploration Fund, which discovered Naukratis and the store-city of Pithom, identified the route of the Exodus, excavated Tanis, Bubastis, and Herakleopolis, scientifically explored the tombs of the most ancient kings at Abydos, and is now bringing successfully to an end its most imposing work, the excavation of the two temples of Deir el-Bahari at Thebes.

NOTES.

THE Bakerian lecture of the Royal Society will be delivered by Prof. John Milne, F.R.S., on Thursday next, March 22, on "Recent Advances in Seismology."

PROF. O. HERTWIG, professor of comparative anatomy, University of Berlin, and Prof. H. O. Osborn, professor of zoology, Columbia University, New York, have been elected foreign members of the Linnean Society.

THE annual general meeting of the Chemical Society will be held on Friday, March 30, when the president will deliver his address, entitled "The Living Organism as a Chemical Agency: a Review of some of the Problems of Photosynthesis by Growing Plants."

AN unprecedented mining disaster occurred on March 10 at the Courrières colliery in the department of the Pas de Calais. An explosion of fire-damp resulted in the loss of more than 1100 lives. The causes of the explosion have not yet been fully established. The colliery employed 6998 persons, and possesses forty-four seams of coal; the annual output is about 2,000,000 tons. In 1890 attention was directed to this colliery by Sir C. Le Neve Foster on account of the remarkably low death-rate from falls of ground, and it was reported upon by a deputation of H.M. Inspectors of Mines. The average death-rate from