

archæology, history, art, linguistics, Indics, Sinics, Hellenics, philology (Latin and Celtic), French language and literature, Italian, Spanish, English, German, law, and economics.

Now, this is what science means to France. How shall we give it honour here? The study of man holds as large a place as the study of Nature. And in this study of man language is the servant, and not the exclusive master, as it has been made in England.

One of the first steps required seems to be to put the study of man in its place as part of the essential education for all, quite independent of the minority who specialise in dead languages. We need to teach in every school the course of civilisation, its successes and its failures, the grandeur of the characters and thoughts which have stimulated action, to show man as the most potent and ruling influence upon Nature. At present, to even the small minority who master dead languages for effective use, most of the literature is unknown, and the physical facts of civilisation are ignored. The time spent in general education upon dead languages—mostly ineffective—would suffice for a fair acquaintance with both man and Nature, if practically used. F.R.S.; F.B.A.

The Third Fossil Tsetse-Fly.

AMONG some fossil insects collected in the Miocene shales of Florissant, Colorado, by Mr. Geo. Wilson, and transmitted to me by Mr. F. H. Ward, I find a beautifully preserved tsetse-fly. The insect is intermediate in size between the two fossil species previously found (both of which may be seen in the British Museum), and is evidently distinct. It may be called *Glossina veterna*, n.sp., and will be best distinguished by the following measurements in millimetres: length 12.5, length of wing 10.9, length of proboscis 4.1, length and width of abdomen each 5.6. The body and legs are brown or black, the abdomen without dark bands; the wings are hyaline, faintly brownish. The scutellum has long marginal and apical bristles, exactly as in the living species. The post-alar and first dorso-central bristles are also well preserved and normal. The anterior basal cell of the wing is about 0.6 mm. broad at end, its truncate apical end is short, and the lower margin does not bulge much near the end. The abdomen is hairy, as in living species. This excellent specimen affords additional evidence for the existence of two tsetse-flies in the American Miocene, astonishing as the fact is. The new species is nearest to *G. osborni*, but is too large to be the female of that form.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

University of Colorado, Boulder, August 31.

The Designation of Hours.

A PROPOS the alteration of official time, now imminent: would it not be a good plan to suggest a modification of time nomenclature? As follows: Midday is 12 noon; well and good. Half an hour later is 12.30 p.m., and we have the confusing spectacle of 11.30 p.m. arriving eleven hours *afterwards*! I suggest, as long as the 24-hour system is followed, that each 12-hour cycle be definitely marked off. Thus half-past 12 (day-time) would be 0.30 p.m., to be followed, quite logically, by 1 p.m., 1.30 p.m., etc., up to 12 p.m. Half-past 12 at night would be 0.30 a.m. Comparison could then be made with the 24-hour system, unless indeed the powers that be are foolish enough to label the first half-hour of each new day 24.30 a.m.—to be followed by 1 a.m.

C. H. COLLINGS.

3 Tollington Place, Tollington Park, N.,
September 18.

NO. 2448, VOL. 98]

ARCHÆOLOGY OF THE MIDDLE AMERICAS.¹

THE work before us is the third volume of a series devoted to the archæology of the Latin Americas, in which the author contrives to give a general account of this enormous field, mainly based upon a widely scattered and not always easily accessible literature, from the earliest Spanish chroniclers to the present plethora of Americanists. There are few readable works which take a wider and more scientific view of the main questions, whilst the flood of the more professional publications deals with smaller areas and often intensely with abstruse detail of one or other of the numerous problems.

In this quarter of the globe, from Mexico and the Antilles, and extending far down in western South America, a peculiar and unique kind of civilisation developed, and culminated in two widely separated centres, not in the steamy-hot tropical lands, but literally above them, in the uplands, where a more invigorating climate still repaid agricultural toil. Having dealt first with the Mexican - Maya civilisation, which has spread its influence in ever - weakening waves down to Panama, the



FIG. 1. — Greater Antilles: Wooden idol. (Scale, one-sixth.) From "Central American and West Indian Archæology."

author devoted his second volume to South America, the civilisation of which centred in the Peruvian highlands.

Having first treated these north and south centres, with their radiating influence into the Middle Americas, he has shorn these by anticipation. From a broad point of view the present volume could therefore deal only with what was left over, and this residue is of minor importance, since it applies to peoples with a civilisation not exactly degenerate, but approaching the original stratum, which had not risen to anything great of its own.

¹ "Central American and West Indian Archæology: Being an Introduction to the Archæology of the States of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the West Indies." By T. A. Joyce. Pp. xvi+270. (London: Philip Lee Warner, 1916.) Price 12s. 6d. net.