

show up in the diagrams connecting tropical temperatures with rainfall in New South Wales, South Australia, and the Upper Darling. Tinted diagrams are given showing for the whole continent the monthly departures from mean minimum temperature and mean rainfall, except for the summer months when rain is inappreciable.

W. W. B.

Prehistoric Man and Racial Characters.

THE annual meeting of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia was held on March 23 at the rooms of the Geological Society, the members of the Prehistoric Society being the guests of the Royal Anthropological Institute. The chair was taken by Prof. J. E. Marr, who delivered his presidential address. His subject was "The Relationship of the Various Periods of Prehistoric Man to the Great Ice Age." He regarded the existence of Pliocene man in East Anglia as proved, and also accepted Mr. Reid Moir's views that the "Mid-Glacial" implements of Ipswich were of Lower Palæolithic age, and that Lower Mousterian implements were incorporated in the Chalky Boulder Clay. He brought forward confirmatory evidence of this from the drainage area of the Great Ouse basin, and regarded the Chelles-Archeul period as intermediate between the two glaciations marked by the Cromer Till and Chalky Boulder Clay respectively. After the formation of the latter clay there seemed to be a recession of ice followed by a re-advance in Magdalenian times, but, as O. Holst argues, this need not indicate an inter-glacial period. If there was a Pliocene glaciation in this country, the evidence seems to point to two succeeding glaciations in Pleistocene times, the last being marked by a period of ice-recession in Aurignac-Solutré times, in which case Lower Palæolithic man lived between the second and third glaciations, and the men of the periods from Mousterian to Magdalenian inclusive during the period of the third glaciation, with its interval of temporary ice-retreat. The questions of earth movements and diversions of river drainage during the periods under consideration were briefly considered.

The presidential address was followed by a paper by Mr. H. Dewey entitled "Flat-based Celts from Kent, Hampshire, and Dorset," dealing with a group of implements that were found lying on the surface in various parts of those counties. They differ in outline from one another, but agree in possessing flat bases. Some of the bases were produced by the removal of a single flake, and retain the terminal cone of percussion. Others resulted from the removal of a number of flakes from the sides of the implement, with the obvious intention of making the base level and flat. Most of them are pointed at one end, and have a horizontal chisel-edge at the opposite extremity. In their general form they resemble fat slugs or caterpillars. Sir John Evans figures some examples. Their age is unknown, but would by most archaeologists be assigned to the Neolithic period. The discovery, however, in gravels of similar forms renders hasty classification hazardous.

A very fine collection of stone implements from Grime's Graves was exhibited by Dr. A. E. Peake.

In the evening, at a joint meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute and the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia, Sir Everard im Thurn in the chair, Prof. Arthur Keith gave an address entitled "How Far can Osteological Characters Help in Fixing the Antiquity of Human Remains?" Certain characters of the nose, orbit, palate, and lower jaw have never been seen in British skulls belonging to any period

older than the Roman occupation, and become increasingly frequent as we approach the present time. These characters consist of (1) the "margination" or flanging of the lower border of the nasal opening; (2) the retreat of the incisor part of the alveolus of the upper jaw, leaving the nasal spine and lower margin of the nose as an overhanging jib and ledge; (3) the reduction in size of the malar bone, leading to the lower margin of the orbit being depressed in a downward and outward direction; (4) the arching of the upper margin of the orbit; and (5) a reduction in the development of the angular part of the lower jaw. If these characters are found in a British skull, the conclusion may be drawn with certainty that it is of a Roman or post-Roman date. Contraction of the palate was also a character unknown in Britain until a Late Celtic date. The rounded type of head found in graves of the beaker period in Britain were not known in England before Late Neolithic times, but pure representations of this type of skull are still to be seen in our modern population. A type of skull was found in the deeper deposits of the Thames bed which were identical with the skulls found under the Neolithic pile-dwellings of the Swiss lakes. So far as our knowledge of Neanderthal man will take us, we are justified in regarding him as confined to the Mousterian period of European culture. If any characteristic part of the skull or skeleton of this race were discovered in an undisturbed deposit, that deposit may be safely assigned to the period of the Mousterian culture.

A College of Tropical Agriculture.¹

A STRONG Committee was appointed in August last to report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies upon the desirability of establishing a tropical agricultural college in the West Indies and upon matters connected therewith. Its report has just appeared, and is one which may be fraught with important results for the future of agriculture in our extensive tropical Dependencies, more especially in the West Indies, where, thanks to the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, general agricultural prosperity has in the last two decades been placed upon a much sounder footing. It is significant of the trend of modern practice that a Committee like this, composed of planters, commercial magnates, and scientific men, as well as administrative officials, should have reported unanimously in favour of the establishment of such a college.

The selection of a site affords much ground for discussion, and after careful consideration Trinidad was chosen as being near to the headquarters of the Imperial Department, and having good communications with the other islands, besides a great variety of crops in cultivation. Incidentally, in view of the growing importance of oil in that colony, a subsidiary school of oil technology is proposed. A postscript to the report, however, suggests that the last word may not yet have been said on the subject of location.

A governing body of about twenty-three, representing all the different interests involved, is proposed, and a staff of ten professors (agriculture, mycology, entomology, agricultural chemistry, organic chemistry, agricultural bacteriology, agricultural and physiological botany, genetics, sugar technology, and agricultural engineering and physics), besides lecturers in stock and veterinary science and in bookkeeping.

Considerable interest attaches to a curriculum sug-

¹ West Indies. Report of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee. (H.M. Stationery Office, 1920.) Price 2d.