

Anthropology at the British Association.

ON the whole, the proceedings of Section H (Anthropology) at the Cardiff meeting may be counted as successful. The number of papers presented was fewer than usual—several contributors were obliged to withdraw at the last moment—nor did they all offer the opportunity for discussion which normally has been a prominent feature in this Section. There were, however, a number of communications of importance, and the attendances were good, notwithstanding the comparatively small number of members at the meeting.

Turning to the consideration of the chief communications in detail, attention may be directed to Prof. F. G. Parsons's paper entitled "The Modern Londoner and the Long Barrow Man," which was mainly a criticism of conclusions arrived at by the president of the Section (Prof. Pearson) and the late Dr. Macdonell. In a paper published some years ago the latter had given it as his view that the modern Londoner approximated to the type of the Long Barrow man. Prof. Parsons had examined skulls of Londoners of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Rolleston and Thurnham Long Barrow skulls, and numerous Anglo-Saxon and Mid-European skulls. As a result he maintained that when the modern Londoner departs from the Anglo-Saxon type it is in the direction of the Alpine folk rather than in that of the Long Barrow folk. An interesting fact which had emerged in the course of the investigation was that broad-headedness appeared to be on the increase in the modern population.

Prof. H. J. Fleure summarised the results of his investigation of the Welsh physical type. He finds that there are nine distinct physical types in Wales, and that, generally speaking, the Welsh people show more long-headedness and more dark pigment and are of shorter stature than the English, but that both are a complex mingling of different breeds.

A paper of great importance in the elucidation of problems of the early ethnology of the Mediterranean area was offered by Mr. L. H. Dudley Buxton. His communication "On the Physical Anthropology of Ancient Greece and Greek Lands" was based upon a study of the cephalic index, stature, upper facial index, and pigmentation of the modern population, and a comparison with the scanty early material available. The mean cephalic index varies from 79.20 in Crete to 87.51 among the Bektash of Lycia. The modern Greeks are slightly more brachycephalic than the ancient inhabitants of the same places. In Crete it would appear that there had been an immigration or extension of long heads in early times, which was later supplanted by a mixed round- and long-headed population. Tentatively he concluded that (1) the cranial index shows sufficient variety to suggest ethnic admixture; (2) this admixture has not been evenly distributed, and local and distinct sub-races have been formed; and (3) the admixture is early, possibly Neolithic in Leukas, and Bronze age (or earlier) in Cyprus or Crete. In regard to stature, large numbers are available from Crete and Cyprus only, but the same conditions appear to make for heterogeneity; the modern stature appears to be slightly greater than the ancient; but, owing to the small numbers represented, caution is needed in ascribing high or low stature to any race in the area. At both boundaries of the Greek world there are two racial types of comparative homogeneity; the intermediate people, who present local divergences, are very variable. The Greeks are a combination, probably early, of Alpine and Mediterranean stocks.

Miss Tildeslev, in a communication on the Burmese

skull, established by means of a co-efficient of racial likeness that the Burmese skull is closely akin to the Malayan and less closely to the Chinese, while being widely removed from the Caucasian type.

In Ethnography Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, in a communication on the statues of Easter Island, suggested that these may represent the hypertrophy of one element in an association similar to that found in San Christoval, where stone images represent the dead chief buried in the pyramidal structure with which the images are associated. The presence of this hypertrophy in Easter, Pitcairn, and Lavalai Islands suggested that immigrant workers in stone thus obtained a means for the expression of religious and artistic impulses to which the fuller life of the larger islands of Polynesia and Melanesia gave other outlets. The crowns of red vesicular tufa, he held, represented hats rather than hair, either natural or in the form of wigs, as has been suggested, and might be compared with the hats which are prominent symbols of the dead in Melanesian societies which practise the ghost cult.

Capt. L. W. G. Malcolm dealt with the anthropogeography of the Cameroons, and in particular with that of the area in which the Bantu-speaking peoples came into contact with the Sudanese; and Prof. E. H. L. Schwarz described certain elements in the culture of the Ovambos, to which he endeavoured, upon somewhat slender evidence, to find analogues in the customs of early historical races which were in contact with Africa.

A very successful afternoon session was devoted to primitive music, with special reference to Wales. Dr. H. Walford Davies, in a paper on "Euphony and Folk Music," pointed out that the pentatonic scale, the simplest known form, which recurs all over the world, epitomises the simpler tone-relationships, and is the basis of the Dorian mode, in which so much of the British folk-music is written. Dr. J. Lloyd Williams, in describing Welsh national music, pointed out that while a considerable body of the music shows the influence of the harp, in vocal music, of which an unexpected wealth had recently been discovered, a considerable proportion was in the Dorian and other modes. Of traditional lyrics the best were the very numerous penillion; these, and the singing of penillion according to North Wales style, constitute unique features in Welsh song.

Archaeological papers furnished the most interesting section of the programme. Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie described recent discoveries of the British School in Egypt, which included a series of tombs of every variety of type of the First to Third Dynasties; the tomb of the royal architect of King Senusert II., whose gold uræus was found in his pyramid; and a large alabaster jar with a magic inscription to provide all offerings required. Three inscriptions of the Twelfth Dynasty, in alphabetic signs, show that the prehistoric system of personal marks had by that time grown into regular writing, independent of any Semitic system.

Mr. P. E. Newberry, in his communication "Early Egypt and Syria," suggested that the parent culture of the early civilisations of the Nile and the Euphrates should be sought in Syria. The ox, the sheep, and the goat were introduced into Egypt through Syria, and the crook and the flail, the royal insignia of dynastic Egypt, were both of Western Asiatic origin, the former being the crook of the goatherd, and the latter, it was suggested, an instrument used by goatherds for gathering ladanum from the cistus bush, which was not found in Egypt. The cults of

the *neter*-pole and the *ded*-column, both of which were originally coniferous tree-trunks, must have been of Syrian origin. The traditional home of Isis and Osiris was between Byblos and Damascus, and there the vine and wheat and barley grew wild. The Egyptian house was obviously derived from a wood-built dwelling, and both Egypt and Babylon are known to have drawn their timber from the Lebanon area.

Mr. R. Campbell Thompson, in a paper on "Pre-historic Dwellers in Mesopotamia," maintained that a proto-Hamitic section of the Mediterranean race which migrated at an early time into Arabia was the forerunner of the Semitic peoples.

Mr. S. Casson described the recent excavations at Mycenæ of the British School of Archæology at Athens, which had been carried out in the light of a reconsideration of Schliemann's discoveries. The Grave Circle, as well as a stratified platform of earth outside the Acropolis, the site of a part of Mycenæ in the period 2000-1500 B.C., showed traces of a Bronze-age civilisation, and even of Neolithic remains. It seemed certain that there was a continuous mainland civilisation stretching back at least to the beginning of the second millennium B.C. In the replanning of Mycenæ by the later kings, such as Atreus, by whom the Lion Gate and the Acropolis wall were built, the burial-ground of their forerunners was enclosed by the Grave Circle. This was used as an ossuary, outlying graves being cleared and their contents placed within the circle.

Mr. Joseph S. S. Whitaker's paper on "Recent Anthropological Research at Motya" described the remains brought to light on the Island of San Pantaleo, on the north-west coast of Sicily, which is undoubtedly the site of the ancient Phœnician colony of Motya, and, owing to its complete and sudden overthrow in 397 B.C., probably shows more remains of an old Phœnician town than any other known site. Excavation has revealed that the island was originally fortified by a wall all round, and the north and south gateways have been discovered. The north gate consists of an outer gateway formed of two apertures, recalling the Athenian Dipylon Gate, and a second, twenty-two metres behind it, of six apertures in pairs. In a cemetery—the first to be discovered—the prevailing method of disposal of the dead was incineration, although in the later cemetery on the adjacent mainland inhumation was chiefly practised. One burial-place belonging to the last period contained only the remains of animals, mostly ruminants, in single urns. An interesting mosaic pavement showed a combination of Phœnician picture-panels and Greek decorative borders.

Signor G. Bagnani dealt with the results of recent archaeological investigations in Rome, some of which had not hitherto been described, including the Roman basilica at Porta Maggiore, the tomb on the Via Ostiense, and the tombs found under the Church of San Sebastiano.

Dr. T. Ashby, in a joint communication by himself and Mr. Robert Gardner, described further observations of the Roman roads of Central and Southern Italy, in particular of the Via Valeria, through the Abruzzi, the Via Latina, and the Via Cassia, through Etruria. An attempt to trace the Via Herculia between Venusia and Potentia was unsuccessful.

Mr. G. H. Garfitt's paper on a recent discovery of rock sculptures near a stone circle in Derbyshire described cup- and ring-markings and two sculptured stones found near the circle on Eyam Moor. On the latter are represented a deer-horn pick and a plough. A comparison with dolmenic sculptures in Brittany suggests an association with the Ægean goddess of fertility, whose cult may thus have extended to Derbyshire. Mr. MacRitchie brought forward evidence to

show that early references to Greenland must be taken to denote some European country, probably the area between West Sweden and the Urals, and indicated the bearing of this conclusion on European ethnology. Mr. Kidner described certain round barrows in the New Forest which do not conform to the three standard types; and Mr. Willoughby Gardner described his recent excavations in the Dinorben hill-fort near Abergelle, which had fully confirmed previous conclusions as to the character and construction of the fort.

An afternoon session was devoted to an expedition to the site of the Roman city of Venta Silurum at Caerwent under the guidance of Dr. T. Ashby, who was in charge of the excavations carried out with the assistance of the Association on that site some years ago. As a preliminary to the excursion Dr. Ashby also gave the Section an account of the results of these excavations.

E. N. F.

Smoke Abatement and Housing Schemes.

A SUPPLEMENT to the *Lancet* of November 20 contains the annual report of the Advisory Council on Atmospheric Pollution for the year April, 1919-April, 1920. The number of stations sending in full returns is nineteen, of which fifteen are divided between London and Glasgow, the other four being Malvern, Rothamsted, Southport, and St. Helens.

It will be seen that the number for the whole country is very limited, and some of the dirtiest industrial centres, where a comparison of the conditions of the atmosphere from year to year might be of some advantage to the local authorities, are entirely unrepresented. This arises, no doubt, partly from the complete indifference shown in many localities to the smoke nuisance, and partly from the troublesome and tedious analytical method of estimating atmospheric impurities. Something in the way of an automatic recorder or an apparatus not requiring much supervision would probably induce many places which at present send in no returns to adopt the system.

It should be pointed out that the Council fully recognises this desideratum, and the report shows that a considerable amount of research has already been carried out with no little success in simplifying the apparatus for recording both solid and acid impurities. That the prevalence of the latter impurity is the main factor in the disintegration of the stonework of many of our ancient monuments has been proved beyond question, and some check on the quantity is a matter of great importance.

It is to be presumed that it is no part of the Council's business to advance the cause of smoke abatement apart from the registration of statistics, yet it seems to us that a systematic propaganda against smoke pollution might form a useful adjunct to its other activities.

Under the new housing schemes emanating from the Ministry of Health an opportunity is offered for the erection of houses in such a way as to diminish considerably the output of smoke, and, in fact, under the auspices of the Ministry a Committee was summoned to inquire into and report on the subject. The report of this Committee was issued some months ago, but it appears from a statement made in the House of Lords by Lord Newton, chairman of the Committee, that neither the Department for which it was prepared, nor the local authorities for the benefit of which it was issued, appear to have paid any attention to its practical application.

We would suggest, therefore, that the various