

cremation culture; but some can be assigned to the Sahaptin. The relationship of the pre-Caucasian burials at the upper end of Miller's Island to the Wakemap culture is not yet clear.

The general conclusion as a result of the investigations seems to be that the earliest comes to this region possessed a culture, already well developed, which was basically Salish. After a long period it was gradually modified by coastal influence, very probably through Upper Chinookan tribes, but also probably from the centre of Washington. This is manifested principally in the art, which combined the plateau and coast styles to produce a local style, expressed in the petrography and the ground and sculptured stone-work. The ultimate fate of the Wakemap and cremation culture is unknown; but the continuity of Salish culture was broken by the Sahaptin and Waiilatpuan migrations. The Dalles-Deschutes Salish disappeared. They may have been absorbed by the Wasko and Wishram.

Malayan Medicine.

THE two publications on Malayan medicine, referred to in NATURE for June 7, p. 862, have now been supplemented by "The Medical Book of Malayan Medicine" (*The Gardens' Bulletin*, Straits Settlements, 1930, vol. 6, part 3), edited by Dr. J. D. Gimlette and Mr. I. H. Burkill.

In 1928 the attention of the two editors was directed to a manuscript in the possession of the Pharmaceutical Society, entitled "This is the Medical Book of Malayan Medicine". The history of the manuscript has been lost, but the editors, from their expert knowledge of the subject, have been able to suggest that the original document, of which this manuscript is a translation, made by a *munshi* (teacher of languages) named Inche' Ismail, consisted of a series of notes on diseases and the prescriptions necessary to cure them, made by a native practitioner, probably resident in Penang. The compiler seems to have allowed a British official in Malaya to have the notes translated by Ismail, possibly with the view of the translation forming part of the collections assembled in the Straits Settlements for display on behalf of that Colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition held in London in 1886.

The manuscript, corrected and edited, is now published with Dr. Gimlette's diagnostic notes of the diseases which appear to be indicated by the Malayan practitioner's descriptions of symptoms, and with Mr. Burkill's determinations of *materia medica*. There are 543 prescriptions in the book, ranging from a village simple such as the juice of a banana tree, used for a disease which, judging from the symptoms, Dr. Gimlette thinks, may be either rheumatic or dengue fever, up to No. 289, in which a concoction of 29 drugs is prescribed for anointing the body in cases of smallpox. This is not a record for polypharmacy, for *Confectio Damocratis*, supposed to have been invented by Mithridates the Great (born 134 B.C.), contained at least 44 ingredients, and had a great reputation in the Middle Ages as a prophylactic against the plague.

Modern medicine is not likely to reap any considerable benefit from the labours of the two learned editors, but this, like the two previous publications in the same series, is of great interest and importance as a contribution to the history of the development of medicine. In this connexion special mention should be made of the glossary of Malayan names for drugs and diseases, which is arranged as part of the excellent index to the volume.

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University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Faculty Board of Physics and Chemistry have reappointed Dr. J. Chadwick, of Gonville and Caius College, assistant director of radioactive research at the Cavendish Laboratory.

The prize of £30 from the Gordon Wigan Fund for a research in chemistry in the year 1930 has been awarded to P. S. H. Henry, of Trinity College, for a dissertation entitled "The Experimental Determination of the Specific Heats of Gases".

Two new professorships have been established by Grace of the Regent House. One is in geography, and the first holder will be Mr. F. Debenham, of Gonville and Caius College. The other is in experimental psychology, and the first holder will be Mr. F. C. Bartlett, of St. John's College.

LONDON.—The Julius Mickle Fellowship was awarded to Dr. C. H. Andrewes for 1931, for his research work on viruses.

OXFORD.—On Feb. 3 Congregation passed a decree accepting the offer of the Forestry Commission and the Secretary of State for the Colonies to make contributions at the rate of £5000 a year as from March 1929 to July 1931 to the maintenance of an Imperial Forestry Institute in Oxford, the University undertaking to make during the same period contributions to the Department of Forestry at a rate not exceeding £300 a year in addition to its current contribution. Mr. C. G. Morison, in proposing the decree, explained that it is a renewal of a former decree. The Institute, which has now been in existence for about five years, is active in research and in giving post-graduate instruction. The relations between the Institute and the University are at present engaging the attention of Council.

A COURSE of lectures on "Dielectrics" will be delivered at the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, St. John Street, E.C.1, by Dr. L. Hartshorn, on Mar. 4, 11, 18, and 25. They will deal with the phenomena of leakage, absorption, power losses in alternating fields, dielectric strength, and so on, and will be especially addressed to those concerned with the manufacture and industrial applications of insulating materials.

MR. A. T. STARR has been appointed to the staff of Faraday House Electrical Engineering College, London. Mr. Starr took the London B.Sc., with first-class honours in mathematics, in 1925, receiving also the Lubbock Prize. At Cambridge he obtained a major scholarship at Corpus Christi College, took a first-class in both parts of the Mathematical Tripos, and received honourable mention in the Smith's Prize examination. For the past three years Mr. Starr has been working in the laboratories of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

A CONFERENCE on "Changing Education in an Old Empire", organised by the New Education Fellowship, will be held at Bedford College, London, on July 24-30, under the presidency of Sir Percy Nunn. Mr. K. Lindsay is the honorary secretary, to whom all communications should be addressed, c/o New Education Fellowship, 11 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. It is hoped that the Conference will lend support to the project of establishing in London a permanent educational institute to act as research bureau and central clearing-house of educational ideas for the Empire.