

some sources from which data can be obtained for these centuries, and has outlined the use to which they may be put in the county of Sussex. The distribution of various types of building-stone, when a stone was used outside its area of occurrence in the fabric of a church, throws light on means of transport, especially the navigability of rivers, since waterways were the only satisfactory means of moving heavy materials. Evidence of this source can be strengthened by sheriffs' administrative accounts. These do not give the precise route but the distance and the cost of transport. The sheriffs' accounts also give much evidence concerning the distribution of crops, timber, and wool production. Lastly, much valuable information can be obtained from taxation accounts, particularly the lay subsidy of 1327. This gives a guide to the location of the areas of greatest prosperity. Mr. Pelham has illustrated his paper with maps of various aspects of the fourteenth century geography of Sussex.

Ice in Arctic Seas

THE Danish Meteorological Institute has published its report on the ice in arctic seas in 1930 (*Isforholdene i de Arktiske Have*). There appears to have been a repetition of the unusual conditions marked by the lack of ice in many seas in 1930. In Spitsbergen the fjord ice was late in forming and relatively thin, and so early as April the western part of the north coast had open water, and by June there was access to the north-east. During July and August the waters of the archipelago were almost free from ice. In the Barents Sea the edge of the ice was unusually far north throughout the summer, and in August a great deal of Franz Josef Land was accessible in open water, which is not usual. The Kara Sea had scattered ice in July but was almost entirely clear in August. So late as November there was little ice in the White Sea. In the east coast of Greenland conditions were less abnormal, but from August until November there was little or no ice off Angmagssalik. The coasts of Iceland were free from ice throughout the year, and south-west Greenland had less ice than usual. Hudson Strait was clear of ice about a month earlier than usual and, except for icebergs, was still free in October. From Siberian waters there were few reports. On the north coast of Alaska the ice lay closely packed throughout the summer. The report is illustrated with the usual charts for each of the spring and summer months.

Abstracts of Meteorological Literature

THE *Meteorological Magazine* for March 1932 contains particulars of a collection of abstracts of meteorological literature which has been undertaken by the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry. The abstracts are being gathered from various sources, including authors' own summaries, translated into English where necessary, and a number of meteorologists have volunteered their assistance in summarising papers for which no abstracts are otherwise available. The collection already numbers about a thousand, covering a period of nearly ten years, and it is hoped to include every important paper published in future. The abstracts are being classified according to subject,

the classification adopted being that of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, which is also employed in the Royal Meteorological Society's Bibliography; the new collection of abstracts will thus form a very useful complement to the latter. The abstracts will not be published, but will be kept in the Meteorological Office Library for reference.

Bibliography of Seismology

THE study of earthquakes and of the transmission of earthquake waves through the earth has lately made such rapid advances that any attempt to enumerate the memoirs published is welcome. We have received from the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, which is now solely responsible for its publication, copies of recent issues of the *Bibliography of Seismology*, edited by Mr. E. A. Hodgson. The number for July-Sept. 1931 contains the titles, with occasional brief abstracts, of a hundred papers. Most countries in which earthquakes are studied are represented, though somewhat unequally, more than one-half of the papers being published in the United States and Great Britain and only two in Italy.

British School of Archæology in Iraq

It is announced that the subscribers to the fund for establishing a British School of Archæology in Iraq in memory of the late Miss Gertrude Bell have appointed a council on which the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Durham, and London are represented. In addition, there are representatives of the British Museum, the British Academy, the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Society of Antiquaries, and other learned societies. The following have been appointed as officers: Sir Percy Cox (president), Sir Edgar Bonham Carter (chairman of the executive committee), Mr. E. H. Keeling (hon. secretary), and Brigadier-General Sir Osborne Mance (hon. treasurer). The offices of the School for the present will be at 20 Wilton Street, London, S.W.

Scenery Preservation in New Zealand

THE preservation of natural scenery by the institution of reserves is an active policy of the New Zealand Government. The report on scenery preservation of the year ending March 31, 1931, records additional reserves during the year of 131,415 acres, making a total of well over half a million acres. Notable additions include Lake Okareka and surroundings, and some two hundred square miles embracing the Fox Glacier, and the Copland and Twain Rivers, and many prominent mountain peaks. Some of the smaller reserves have been set aside for historical and anthropological reasons, but most are scheduled in order to preserve scenery and natural vegetation.

Announcements

THE Kelvin Medal of the Institute of Civil Engineers for 1932 has been awarded to the Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, and the presentation will be made by Lord Rutherford at the Institute on Tuesday next, May 3, at 5 P.M.

A VARLEY centenary commemoration meeting will be held at the Institution of Electrical Engineers on