

THE activities of the Society in excavation have afforded an opportunity to many well known in the archaeological world for the exercise of their skill. The list would be too long to recite, but the names of Petrie, Naville, Hall, Hogarth, Hunt, Grenfell, and Woolley in this connexion immediately leap to the mind. Their work has been recorded in the scholarly and beautifully illustrated publications of the Society. In the collections now specially exhibited in the Egyptian Galleries and the Manuscript Saloon of the British Museum may be seen some of the choicer relics excavated by them. These have been given to the Museum, it should be added, as the agreed method of disposal of the finds allotted for the share of the expenditure raised by subscription from private individuals. Over two score manuscripts, which include the priceless "Sayings of Jesus", new poems by Sappho and Bacchylides, and the text of Pindar's "Pæans", are shown. Among the more striking archaeological exhibits are the polychrome glass fish from Amarna and the sandstone sphinx inscribed with the famous pictographic script of Sinai, both of which have attracted much attention from the public, the diminutive gold statuette of Re, and the silver shrine from Daphnæ. With a number of exhibits of decorated glazed ware discovered at Amarna in the last two or three seasons' work is the unique Eighteenth Dynasty ivory *ushabti* from that site, whence also comes, among the finds of the season just past, the remarkably fine engraving of a young king's head on limestone, while the limestone head of a bald-headed old man, shown near by, comes from Deir el-Bahari. The relics from the recently discovered Buchæum, the temple of the Buchis bull cult, are here on exhibition for the first time. The larger objects and statues in the Gallery, for which the Museum is indebted to the Society, have been specially labelled.

#### Old and New Pharmacy

A WRITER in the *Sunday Observer* recently deplored the passing of the old-time English pharmacy with its window display of stoppered carboys of coloured water and its opal and gilded drug-jars. The loss of these emblems coincides with a change in the character of the pharmacist's occupation. The centralisation of manufacture tends more and more to convert him into a distributor of compounded medicines, in place of the skilled technician who made his own preparations out of crude drugs; but it must not be forgotten that he must now know a great deal more, about more complex drugs, than the old-time pharmacist. Side by side with this change there has grown up a demand on the part of pharmaceutical and fine chemical manufacturers for a new kind of pharmacist, whose knowledge is varied enough to enable him to deal with the new developments in therapeutics to which chemists, pharmacologists, and physiologists are constantly contributing. Much the same type of pharmacist is required by the great hospitals, which in these days often undertake the manufacture of pharmaceutical products on a considerable scale, for the use of their patients. To meet these new demands pharmaceutical education in Great Britain has been

and is still being remodelled, and if any justification is needed for the changes the Pharmaceutical Society is making in this direction, it will be found in the new "British Pharmacopœia", to be published next month. The advance notices of this work, which have appeared in the technical press, indicate that it will make greatly increased demands on the knowledge and skill of the pharmacist, even where he is only concerned with the care and distribution of the vast number of products used in modern medicine.

#### British Pharmaceutical Conference

IN these circumstances it was peculiarly fitting that the chairmanship of the annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Aberdeen should have fallen this year to Mr. Herbert Skinner, the veteran pharmacist of the Great Northern Hospital and a former president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. In his opening address, Mr. Skinner deplored the tendency, which exists even among medical men, to regard the hospital pharmacist as merely a dispenser of medicines, and out of his own rich experience drew an interesting picture of the duties and responsibilities attached to such a position, in the course of which he insisted on the necessity of maintaining a laboratory in every pharmacy, if the pharmacist is not to lapse into a mere distributor. The number of papers contributed to the Science Section of the Conference was twenty-nine, which is stated to be a record. It is perhaps to be expected in a year which sees the advent of a new "Pharmacopœia" that these papers should be largely concerned with methods of analysis of drugs. The importance of this kind of work is obvious, since upon it depends control of the purity and strength of drugs, but it is to be hoped that at future Conferences there will be more papers of the type contributed by Dr. Linnell and his colleagues on the synthesis of pressor substances and local anaesthetics, since these imply the development of interest in the synthesis of new drugs in Great Britain.

#### New Zealand Earthquake of Sept. 16

SINCE Feb. 3, 1931, the strongest earthquake in the Hawke's Bay district is that which occurred at 1.30 A.M. on Sept. 16. In 1931 the principal damage was confined to Napier, Hastings, Waipawa, and other places lying within an elongated area about fifty miles in length and directed north-north-east. The earthquake of Sept. 16, though much less intense and unaccompanied by loss of life, was strong enough to cause slight damage, such as the partial collapse of some houses at Wairoa and Gisborne, to the north of Hawke's Bay. These places lie nearly along the continuation of the areas mainly shaken in 1931, but the centres of the two meizoseismal areas are separated by about eighty miles. The point of chief interest about the recent earthquake is the continual migration of the focus in the north-north-easterly direction from 1855 until 1931 and again until Sept. 16 last.

#### Henry Cavendish

WITH reference to a paragraph which appeared in these columns in the issue of *NATURE* for Aug. 6 (p. 198),