

subjects that can be 'televised'. Television is a new art and has new principles connected with it. The substantial facts on which it is based are well known and the keen amateur is doing not a little to push it forward. This exhibition showed how much has been done in this respect, and also how much is being done by great corporations with large resources.

It is, however, necessary that the ideas of the public on television should not be turned in the wrong direction by exaggerated or imaginary statements as to its real and possible achievements, because then only disappointment results when the true facts are known. "We cannot yet televise directly a cricket match at Lords or a Cup football contest at the Crystal Palace. But what we can do is to take on a moving film with a camera certain not very quickly moving objects of large size and televise this film. There is an immense field in this respect for educational work. The Latin poet Horace told us, what every advertiser knows well, namely, that memory of the eye is more tenacious than memory through the ear. We can televise geometrical diagrams, lessons in botany, physics, and zoology, and countless other useful visions. Let us hope that this new weapon science has provided will not be vulgarised or put to base uses, but employed for the instruction, elevation and national entertainment of the public at large."

#### Eugenics and Marriage Laws

IN a note contributed to the *Bulletin of Hygiene* for February, Lettin M. Crump discusses the introduction of pre-marital health certificates from the point of view of eugenics. In Mexico, impediments to marriage include insanity, and similar restrictions extending to imbecility or feeble-mindedness are found in certain of the United States. The growing practice of requiring a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner for insurance purposes, as well as from candidates for public appointments, seems likely to undermine opposition on this score, and with a more enlightened public opinion the need for compulsion would be greatly lessened. In some countries, notably Austria, Germany and some of the United States, the establishment of centres for giving advice on all matters concerning marriage has found favour. Useful advice can only be given when the investigator has a knowledge of the applicant's physical and mental condition as well as of his hereditary background and that of his proposed partner, the type of inheritance of any heritable disease or defect which may be present in the pedigree and of the effect which other causes may have upon the appearance of such heritable conditions. Mendelism provides us with a growing body of available information concerning inheritance in man, and evidence collected in the working of marriage advice bureaux leads to the conclusion that feeble-mindedness is in many cases inherited and usually behaves as a recessive; the mating of possible heterozygotes is undoubtedly to be discouraged. Although evidence collected from pedigrees is frequently both vague and faulty, justice demands that every available means of making public such

information as exists should be fully used so as to enable the conscientious citizen to avoid handing on defects from generation to generation.

#### Anthropological Teaching and Research in Australia

THE passing of a resolution by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science at its meeting at Sydney in August last, urging upon the Government the need for anthropological training for all white people who hold positions of authority or control over natives, has moved Prof. Raymond Firth to open the new volume of *Oceania* (vol. 3, pt. 1) with a survey of the progress of anthropology in Australia in the period 1926-32. The choice of this period as the limit of his survey is determined by the fact that its beginning coincides with the setting up of a Department of Anthropology in the University of Sydney and the appointment of Prof. A. Radcliffe-Brown to the chair, as the result of a resolution passed at the Australian meeting of the Pan-Pacific Congress in 1923. At the same time, a comprehensive scheme of research was initiated under the direction of the Committee for Anthropological Research of the Australian National Research Council, for which funds have been generously provided by the Rockefeller Foundation. In what has been accomplished, much has been due to Prof. Radcliffe-Brown, who, in virtue of his position in the University of Sydney and on the Research Council, has acted as a link in bringing closely together teaching and research. Investigation has been directed to both human biology and social anthropology. Not only has the work of Spencer and Gillen in central and northern Australia been continued and extended, but Prof. Radcliffe-Brown and others have also conducted investigations in areas in the east and the west of the continent. In looking forward, Prof. Firth sees that much virgin soil has to be explored, not only in Australia, but also in New Guinea and Melanesia; but in the first-named, he points out, there is need for haste lest the material vanish.

#### Racial Distributions in Palæolithic Europe

IN some 'notes' contributed to the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia* (vol. 7, pt. 1) Mr. M. C. Burkitt offers some interesting suggestions as to the possibly dual origin of the races and cultures of palæolithic age in Europe. He points out that it is no longer possible to accept the unflinching regularity of the sequence of cultures as originally classified by the French archaeologists, and points to the contemporary existence, as proved by the fossil fauna, of a core industry, the *coup de poing* of Chelleo-Acheulean times, on the west bank of the Rhine and of flake industries on the east bank, the two intermingling on the border line in eastern France, in southern Belgium and in Britain as seen in the Levallois and Clactonian industries. He goes on to point out that, while the *coup de poing* does not occur east of the Rhine with a few exceptions, the flake industry can be traced, except for certain gaps, from east of the Rhine right across Europe and Asia