

Eskimo culture. He found the oldest culture among the Caribou Eskimo, west of Hudson Bay. This spread to the arctic coasts and became dependent on marine animals, and then east and west until the Thule culture was homogeneous from Greenland to Alaska. An Alaskan culture, borrowing Asiatic influences, spread eastward as far as Greenland and is superimposed on the earlier culture. Rasmussen's researches on the Caribou Eskimo were a new chapter in ethnography.

With Denmark's increased attention to East Greenland subsequent to her suzerainty being established over the whole country, Rasmussen turned his attention to the east in the sixth Thule expedition of 1931. The aim was to explore the coast between Cape Farewell and Angmagssalik. Many additions to the charts were made and it was found that this part of the east coast is relatively free from ice in late summer. The seventh Thule expedition of 1932 was the largest that Rasmussen led. It was also the first on which he made aerial surveys. The work was the outcome of the previous year's reconnaissance and resulted in detailed surveys from Cape Farewell to Umivik, as well as two flights across the ice-sheet. Equally important was the archaeological work on former Eskimo habitation of the coast. Rasmussen decided that seals were numerous enough to support a scattered Eskimo community. Hunters remained to investigate this problem more fully.

It was from a resumption of this work that Rasmussen returned ill to Copenhagen last year.

Several of Rasmussen's works have been translated into English, including "The People of the Polar North" (1908), "Greenland by the Polar Sea" (1921) and "Across Arctic America" (1927). The reports of the various expeditions appeared in English and Danish in *Meddelelser om Grønland* and elsewhere. He also wrote several books in Danish including "Nye Mennesker" (1905), "Under Nordenvindens Svøbe" (1906) and "Myter og Sagn fra Grønland" (1921-25). In all his works he had the happy faculty of combining a charming lucidity of style with a wealth of information. Among the many honours bestowed on Rasmussen were the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, the Danish Medal of Merit and the orders of Dannebrog, St. Olav and the North Star.

R. N. R. B.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir William Hardy, F.R.S., director of food investigation in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, secretary of the Royal Society in 1915-25, and president this year of the British Association, on January 23, aged sixty-nine years.

Dr. F. L. Kitchin, F.R.S., palaeontologist to H.M. Geological Survey of Great Britain, on January 20, aged sixty-three years.

News and Views

The Endless Adventure of Government

PROBLEMS of government and citizenship in the modern world were discussed by Mr. Walter Elliot, the Minister of Agriculture, in his rectorial address as Rector of the University of Aberdeen on January 18. Government to-day, he said, is passing through a great transformation both at home and abroad. Governments and States are no longer merely geographical or political units, but economic units which every kind of intercourse has to take into consideration. Production is becoming decentralised; international trade less and less an interchange of specialised lines of production and more and more a competition in similar lines. The powers of modern science tend to make it feasible for specialised lines to be produced anywhere in the world, or to be replaced by others just as good; hence the national unit has become possible, although not necessarily desirable.

Interdependence of Various Countries

THE formula of the continually increasing interdependence of the world requires qualification. Mr. Elliot gave three examples in illustration. In the first he traced the change in the economic aspect of the trade in nitrate for use as a fertiliser. In the nineteenth century a great trade was built up with South America; steel rails went out and nitrate came back. Large fortunes were made, international lending improved, and the economists were happy.

But men of science, thinking it unnecessary to transport nitrogen to fields already supporting the pressure of a column composed mainly of that gas, found a means of producing it in Europe, which was good for production but bad for trade. Referring to the neon lamp, Mr. Elliot said it was the old lamp, and not the new, which demanded all the paraphernalia of nineteenth century economics; whilst the new artificial plastics derived from acetylene are replacing walnut and maple and the mahogany which took our forefathers to the West Indies. Mr. Elliot next turned to foreign investment, another section of the world's work where interdependence is no such certain sequence as was once assumed. A great deal of what is described as 'trade' is not exchange, but investment. The uneconomic nature of a great deal of foreign development has been masked by the free gift to competitors of transport systems, railway and steamer lines, which have been constructed at the expense of the producers in Great Britain and presented to their competitors.

Marketing Boards

THE 'endless adventure of government, has become the problem of problems, the real riddle of the Sphinx. The reason is immediate fear—fear both of war and of peace. Organisation is essential; there are two methods—to organise the world at once, or to organise smaller units and gear them up to each other as soon as time and hard thinking will