

will be explored. While deploring the circumstances which have made these undertakings possible, archaeologists welcome the expenditure of funds in this direction, which, it is hoped, will at least make a beginning in putting the archaeological exploration of the south-eastern States on the same systematic basis as the exploration of the south-west.

#### Coventry Libraries

THE Coventry Libraries and Museum Committee's report on the work of the year 1932-33 gives evidence of vigorous growth of the services under its care. The Committee fosters the closest possible contact between the libraries and all activities of a cultural character, and is providing additional accommodation for such activities adjacent to its central library, where already during the past year meetings of societies devoted to the study of art, history, natural history, the drama, engineering, bee-keeping, etc., numbered 271, including 120 meetings of groups for the discussion of broadcast talks. Among the most popular of the subjects of these discussions was "Biology and Everyday Life". Provision of books for children through the school library system, serving 55 schools and supplementing the activities of the special junior departments of the libraries, accounts for one sixth of the total issues. Through the West Midlands Regional Library Bureau, the resources of many libraries in other parts of the country were drawn upon by way of temporary loans to meet special requisitions. By the circulation of publicity material among branch libraries, the maintenance of a variety of book displays throughout the system was ensured. Some of the most popular displays related to cooking, wireless, gardening, polar exploration, holiday literature, modern drama and home decoration. Among other services successfully maintained are: the *Coventry Bookshelf*, a monthly medium of communication with readers; an "Illustrations Collection" of 15,000 pieces; a "lucigraph" for making facsimile copies of maps, prints, drawings, etc.; a commercial and technical intelligence service, equipped with up-to-date indexes to practically all technical material published throughout the world, patent abridgments, consular and diplomatic reports, etc.; and frequent exhibitions of material relating to matters of special local or regional importance.

#### Reform of Medical Education

IN his Bradshaw lecture recently delivered before the Royal College of Physicians, Dr. C. S. Myers discusses the education of the medical student from the point of view of the industrial psychologist. As regards pre-medical study, which consists of physics, chemistry and biology, he considers that far more time is spent in practical work on such subjects than is necessary for those who are not going to specialise in any of them, especially as they have no educational value for the future doctor. A similar criticism is directed against the enormous amount of detail in anatomy and physiology required of the student, whereas little attempt is made at this stage to gather anatomical information from the corpse in the post-mortem room. The student derives his knowledge of

human anatomy mainly from dissection of the cadaver, in which the desiccated organs have lost their form and their relations in the living body. As a remedy for these and other defects in medical education, Dr. Myers makes the following suggestions. In the first place, the student should spend part of his time in the wards as soon as he begins to study anatomy and physiology. Secondly, during the hospital period, he should receive a more complete education in the whole range of medicine and surgery before he attends the specialist departments. Thirdly, some training in the recognition and treatment of psychoneuroses is necessary for the future general practitioner, who is too liable to mistake the true nature of such conditions. Lastly, before entering into general practice, he should serve an apprenticeship between the passing of the qualifying examination and the actual conferment of the diploma or degree.

#### Australian Meteorological Data

THE Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of the Commonwealth of Australia has published valuable meteorological statistics under the title "Meteorological Data for Certain Australian Localities" (Pamphlet No. 42, Melbourne, 1933). A foreword explains that, for some time past, various investigators on the Council's staff had made extensive use of unpublished data collected by the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau, in connexion with researches in soil science, entomology, plant industry, animal health, etc., and it was thought worth while to make such information more accessible to investigators by publishing selected data. The matter was discussed with the Meteorological Bureau, and it was agreed that the Bureau should provide the data and arrange the material in a form suitable for publication, while the Council would bear the costs of publication. This pamphlet is the result of the co-operation of those two bodies. It gives in tabular form, for several hundred stations in Australia and Tasmania, mean monthly and annual values of daily maximum and minimum temperature and relative humidity, and average monthly and annual totals of rainfall. These averages refer to periods of varying length, as a rule not less than 15 years, and in not a few cases between 70 and 80 years. In the rare cases where the period is only five or six years, the figures may—especially in the case of such a variable quantity as rainfall—depart considerably from those that would be found over a suitably long period, but this drawback is nearly always met with in meteorological statistics for sparsely populated countries, and recourse must be had to such short records if large areas are not to be left unrepresented. A large folding map is attached at the end of the publication, which gives the meteorological divisions adopted by the Bureau and shows many of the stations included in the tables.

#### Eugenics in Vera Cruz

IN December 1932 a new eugenic law was enacted in the State of Vera Cruz, which has the largest population in Mexico. A Bureau of Eugenics and Mental Hygiene was organised as a part of the