

Anthropological Studies in India

IN view of the important part which will be played by racial, religious and social questions in relation to administration and government in the India of the future, considerable interest is attached to a brief survey of the work in anthropology which has been, and is now being, done in India by Rai Bahadur L. K. Ananthakrishna Iyer, chairman of the Board of Higher Studies in Anthropology of the University of Calcutta and the author of a number of well-known works on Indian anthropology, which appears in *Current Science* of January 1934. He points out that it is only in the last fifteen years that the vast mass of anthropological material offered by India has begun to be utilised systematically. The School of Anthropology in the University of Calcutta was organised in 1921, and the University is now unique in prescribing the subject for the M.A. and M.Sc. examinations. The students also have the advantage of an annual course of practical instruction in the field in various parts of Bengal and Chota Nagpur, when both anthropometry and cultural anthropology are studied.

THE anthropological work of the University is supplemented in Calcutta by that of the Indian Museum, where there is a well-equipped laboratory, and research work is also carried on. Much of this research has already been embodied in important monographs. Reference is also made to the work of Dr. J. H. Hutton in Assam and to that of Sarat Chandra Roy, editor of "Man in India". On the west coast, the only institution concerned with anthropology is the Anthropological Society of Bombay; and the author expresses regret that Madras, with one old and two infant universities, has taken so little advantage of its opportunities for anthropological research. In Mysore, the University has revived the Ethnographic Survey of the State, and the fourth and final volume of its report is now in preparation for publication. The work of the Indian Science Congress is also noted. The author concludes by deploring the fact that while there are many regions in India unexplored anthropologically, the workers are few. He urges that a band of young men should be trained to collect material in these unexplored fields.

Agricultural Education in New Zealand

AGRICULTURAL research in New Zealand has a staunch friend in the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, who, having a lifelong acquaintance with British agriculture, is peculiarly fitted to estimate the value to the farming community of such agencies as the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Cawthron Institute. In a recent address to the students of Wellington College, New Zealand, on the new needs of education, he referred to the appointment of a former student, Theodore Rigg, to the directorship of the Institute, "an organization notable throughout the Empire for the thoroughness, accuracy, and economic value of its agricultural researches". Touching on the question of the careers for which a college training offers a

suitable preparation, he stressed the claims of the rural population of a Dominion in which farming is the greatest industry to leadership such as a college graduate might aspire to. He added point to his observations by revealing that it was considerations such as these which induced the Rhodes scholarship selection committee to select, for the first time in the history of the Trust, a young agricultural scientific worker for appointment to one of these scholarships.

Investigations in the Stratosphere

THERE are now two bodies in Russia intent on surveying the scientific and other possibilities of the upper atmosphere. They are the Society for Aviation and Chemical Warfare, with outside experts and with M. Dubenski, assistant director of the Military Aviation Academy, as chairman of the commission, and a more civilian type of composite body drawn from the Leningrad Institute of Aerology, the Radio Institute and the Central Geophysical Laboratory. The former organisation was responsible for the successful flight of *Stratostat USSR*, piloted by M. Prokofiev last September, as well as that ending in disaster on January 30 this year. If one can judge from the reports from Russian newspapers, these two schools are sharply divided on the question of manned and unmanned balloons respectively. The military organisation, the programme of which is the study of ultra-violet solar radiation and atomic disintegration by cosmic rays, is concentrating its attention on shock-absorbers, gliders, parachutes, etc., in order to safeguard future crews from disaster. The civil body, however, is specialising upon further improvements in automatic registering devices to be attached to balloonets after the manner of Regener's, whose work with these down to a pressure of 22 mm. (about 28 kilometres up) has not yet been superseded. The new device consists of a string of two or three such elastic balloonets each about 2 metres in diameter on the ground, filled with hydrogen for carrying the self-recording devices. A trial has already been made with one such balloonet. This reached a maximum altitude of 18.6 kilometres and was followed during its ascent by theodolite observations. It automatically transmitted radio signals of pressure, temperature and hygrometric data on a wave-length of 25 metres. Unfortunately, the apparatus has been lost. In a new apparatus which was to be ready by the end of March, there were to be added cosmic ray intensity and gas analysis transmissions and a camera. This work of the Institute of Aerology is a very laudable enterprise and the results will be awaited with interest.

Sydney Harbour Bridge

AMONG the recently published abstracts of papers to be discussed by the Institution of Civil Engineers are four relating to the design, construction and calculations of the great arch bridge over the harbour at Sydney, New South Wales. The papers, Nos. 4904, 4922, 4923 and 4946, are by Mr. R. Freeman, Mr. L. Ennis, Mr. J. F. Pain, Mr. G. Roberts and Dr. J. J. C. Bradfield, and the discussion will be held on April 10.