

Arctic, under the leadership of Dr. Noel Humphreys. The plans of the Expedition are to leave London in July in a sealer chartered from Norway and to winter in Ellesmere Land, next spring being devoted to an exploration of Northern Ellesmere Land. The interior is unexplored and a geological survey of this country will be the chief scientific work undertaken. The Expedition is financed partly by its members and partly by scientific societies and individual subscribers. The greater part of the food supply has been obtained free owing to the generosity of a number of firms. The Expedition will consist of five or six members, but a geologist is still urgently required. Besides being physically fit and prepared to be away from England for a year, he should have had some field experience. Communications referring to the Expedition should be addressed to Mr. E. A. A. Shackleton, Oxford University Ellesmere Land Expedition, 1934, Royal Geographical Society, London, S.W.7.

#### Archæological Exploration in Alaska

DR. ALEŠ HRDLÍČKA, accompanied by a number of volunteer students, left Washington on May 11 for a further season's work on Kodiak Island, Alaska. Several seasons have already been devoted by Smithsonian expeditions, of which Dr. Hrdlička has been in charge, to the examination of sites on this island. The results have shown that it was at one time thickly populated and was in all probability a stepping stone in the peopling of America by migrants from Asia. The earliest inhabitants, whose skeletal remains have been found at the bottom of the accumulated debris, represent the earliest remains of man which have been found in the far north. They are not, however, ancient in the geological sense. In type they approach the physical characters of the Indians of California and the west coast. The earliest immigrants introduced a high order of stone culture, and many of the objects found with them are unique. They were succeeded by the Aleut, who were the inhabitants at the time of the coming of the Russians. A remarkable feature in the culture of the older population is that it is not identical throughout. A marked change takes place in the course of their period of occupation. In the coming season, work will be confined to one large village, already partially explored. The site will be subjected to intensive study in the hope of obtaining a decisive answer to some, at least, of the problems which have been raised in the investigations of previous years.

#### International Eugenics Conference

THE biennial conference of the International Federation of Eugenic Organisations will take place at Zurich on July 18-21 under the presidency of Prof. Ernst Rüdin of Munich. A programme has been arranged providing for the discussion of subjects of immediate interest in which eminent specialists have been invited to take part. Addresses will be delivered by, among others, Prof. Rüdin on "Racial Psychiatry—a Scheme for Topographical Research in Europe", Dr. Mjoer on "Measurement of Psycho-

logical Faculty as shown in Musical Ability", and Prof. Von Verschuer on "Researches in Twins". Dr. Rüdin will also explain the provisions of the recent German eugenics law; and it is hoped that one of the public health officers of the Reich will give an address on the questionnaire now used in Germany for assessing intelligence grade. Among the subjects down for discussion are the assessment of feeble-mindedness—to be held in a joint session of the Committee for Racial Psychiatry and Section B of the International Committee for the Standardisation of Human Measurement—mental measurement and its relation to diagnosis of temperamental type, aspects of the problems of differences between, and inheritance in, monozygotic and dizygotic twins, and the best methods of conducting a central clearing house for human heredity, this last-named including the questions of the establishment of national bureaux, and the protection of authors whose material is published. The work of the Standardisation Committee in Anthropometry will be continued at the International Congress of Anthropological Sciences to be held in London at the end of July.

#### Prof. Erwin Baur

HEFT 17-18 of *Die Naturwissenschaften*, which appeared on April 27, is devoted to the memory of Erwin Baur, who died in December last. A short general account by Dr. Max Hartmann of his work and its significance in leading to a general appreciation of genetics in Germany is followed by a series of twelve articles written by colleagues of Baur whom he trained in the institute of which he was head, outlining in more detail the results achieved by the institute for plant breeding which he founded at Müncheberg. Five papers dealing with his theoretical work discuss respectively his investigations of mutation, linkage, specific crossing and self-sterility in *Antirrhinum*, and his genetical work on *Pelargonium* and *Cleome*. In seven other papers are considered the practical plant-breeding results obtained with rye, wheat, barley, sweet lupins, fodder plants, potatoes and grapes. Further papers on the practical results will appear in later numbers of the same journal. An obituary notice of Prof. Baur appeared in *NATURE* of February 17.

#### Barter in Great Britain

IN the United States, the direct barter of goods and services has developed rapidly since 1931 as a practical method of alleviating unemployment and social distress. So far, little appears to have been done in Great Britain along similar lines, possibly because social insurance is highly developed, whereas in the United States it is practically non-existent. It is of interest therefore to note that, according to *Progress and the Scientific Worker*, experimental barter schemes have been inaugurated near Cheltenham and Petersfield. The Cheltenham scheme was started under the leadership of Prof. Scott of University College, Cardiff. Four acres of land were purchased