

by private investigators, though various laboratories abroad, such as those at the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, and at the Technical High School, Munich, have attacked the subject systematically. One of the main aims of the new Department will be the co-ordination of its results, with the view of publication, with these obtained in other centres, with which close relations will be cultivated. The head of the new Department and Laboratory is Dr. P. D. Ritchie, who will have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of a permanent advisory committee consisting of a number of prominent men of science and art experts. It is hoped that the Department will be in active operation by October, though no problems can be dealt with before that date.

#### International Anthropology and Ethnology

THE first session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences was opened by H.R.H. Prince George at University College, London, on July 30. The Congress is the outcome of a movement initiated more than twenty years ago, when in 1912, after the London Meeting of the International Congress of Americanists, a small international committee was appointed by the Royal Anthropological Institute to organise such a Congress. As a result of no little negotiation and correspondence, it was then arranged that a Congress should take place in 1916. Owing to the War, the Congress did not meet, and the proposal fell into abeyance, until in the course of the discussion of arrangements for the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, which met in London in 1932, it emerged that the need for an international meeting ground for the discussion of the problems of ethnology was urgently felt. Experience gained by the inclusion of an ethnological section at the archaeological congresses organised after the War by the French Institut d'Anthropologie had proved to the satisfaction of most of those who had taken part that nothing short of an independent congress would prove satisfactory. Many, with good reason, were reluctant to add to the already large number of international scientific congresses; but the almost overwhelmingly heavy programme submitted at this first session is a sufficient proof of the wisdom of the decision. Not merely the number and the variety of the communications, but also the number of joint discussions between two or more sections—thirteen discussions in all—shows that, even within the limits laid down by those responsible for the organisation of the programme, the debatable questions in ethnology, which it is felt desirable to ventilate by open discussion, are numerous.

ON the opening, the Congress numbered more than a thousand members, and delegates from no less than forty-two different countries were present when Lord Onslow delivered his presidential address at the inaugural meeting. America, both North and South, was well represented, owing to the approximation of the date to that of the forthcoming European session of the International Congress of Americanists

later in the month. This is a coincidence which the promoters had in view as a regular recurrence every four years, when the present year was chosen to initiate the series. As the presence of so many foreign anthropologists of distinction is not likely to occur again for a long time to come, every effort had been made to show them as much as possible of the ethnographical and archaeological treasures of our public and private collections, while a number of special exhibits had been arranged. Among these, one of the most striking was the exhibit of material brought back by Miss G. Caton-Thompson and Miss E. W. Gardiner from their investigations on behalf of the Royal Anthropological Institute at El Khargeh in Egypt. The exhibits illustrate the classification of stone implements into seven periods of the Stone Age, the fossil mound springs which have demonstrated the existence of two pluvial periods, and have afforded evidence not only of the character of the water supply but have also provided data bearing on the relation of prehistoric tools to fossil vegetation, of which the exact period and determination had hitherto defeated investigators. This exhibition will be on view to the public after the Congress for a period of three months. The British Museum also arranged an exhibit especially for American visitors, which included the famous Maudslay Maya plaster casts and examples of the antiquities obtained by the Museum's expeditions to British Honduras. Special interest also attached to the prehistoric pottery brought by Sir Aurel Stein from Baluchistan and Persia, in view of the subject of the Huxley Memorial Lecture, which he delivered on July 31, before the Congress.

#### Exhibits from Tell Duweir, Palestine

IN order to afford those attending the International Congress of Anthropological Sciences in London an opportunity of viewing the antiquities from Tell Duweir, the Exhibition of the Wellcome Archaeological Research Expedition in the rooms of the Palestine Exploration Fund, Manchester Square, remained open until August 3. Much interest was aroused by the exhibits, the inscribed ewer naturally attracting a great deal of attention. Further fragments of the ewer have been found among the material brought from Palestine, and these have added definition to its form, while the line of decoration is now almost continuous. A card exhibited with the ewer gave the alternative readings which have been proposed. Even more impressive were the relics from the sanctuary shrine in the fosse, of which the destruction is dated by the Rameses II plaque as not earlier than the first half of the thirteenth century B.C. The preservation *in situ*, and in some instances intact, of the appointments of the shrine gives the find a unique character. These objects, including the benches for offerings, the libation jar and offerings bin and the like, were displayed in and around a model reconstructed from squeezes. This exact record of a remarkable cult-object reflects the greatest credit on the initiative and technical skill of the members of the expedition.

THE significance, in an archaeological sense, of the shrine and of its extra-mural location as a non-urban cult, was much enhanced by the accompanying material, both that from the floor, such as the remains of the ivory toilet appliances, and that from the adjacent waste-heap, among the latter, more particularly, by the ivory carvings and inlay. The occurrence of an inscribed sherd, on which one character is conjecturally read *Aton*, if it should prove to be decipherable, may serve to throw an important light on the position of the reformed religion outside Egypt; while the ivories afford material for examination and discussion of no little moment for an understanding of the relations of artistic development in Egypt and Palestine. The resemblance of the ivory incense vase in the form of a female with a spoon attached to the head to that depicted in the British Museum fresco of *circa* 1415 B.C. from the tomb of Sebekhetep as being carried by an Asiatic tributary lends strong support to the view put forward by Mr. J. L. Starkey in his lecture at the Palestine Exploration Fund that these specimens afford evidence for the existence of a local school of craftsmen, of which later examples are to be seen in the products of Samaria. Of the remaining exhibits, little need be said. Their importance, especially in the instance of the pottery and metal objects from the Copper Age cave-dwellings and cemetery, was patent. The peculiar form of the copper darts, or javelin points, calls aloud for an analogy, which some technologist at the Anthropological Congress should have been able to furnish. This, though a lesser problem, is by no means the least intriguing of the material brought back by what must be judged by its material to have been a most successful expedition.

#### Climate and Health

THE one hundred and second annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held at Bournemouth last week under the presidency of Dr. S. Watson Smith, who took as the subject of his presidential address "Climate and Health". In the choice of this subject, he said, Bournemouth seemed a fitting place from which to speak. There are those who believe climate to be the most influential of the natural causes controlling the destinies of mankind. Apart from the secondary causes, biologically concerned, such as temperature, humidity, altitude, winds, soils, etc., the chief factor governing climate would seem to be insolation. The world distribution of sunlight, and the resulting variations of temperature, appear to determine the differences between coastal, plain, and hill climates; as also such matters as diversity of colour types of man. The importance of sunlight to life and health cannot be over-estimated, but it is desirable to impress upon the community that, whilst the sun is our greatest natural friend, it can, if regarded with disrespect, become an equally potent foe; for an excessive exposure to light rays, whether natural or artificial, not only entails fatigue and exhaustion, but also produces early degeneration of the skin. In the British Isles, all gradations exist

between the bracing and tonic, and the sedative and relaxing, climates, and a careful study of an invalid's general state of health and mental traits should be made before recommending the suitable place.

#### Medicinal Baths and Springs

WATERS and baths are to be looked upon as factors accessory to climate, over which they may have a dominating therapeutic influence. Spas frequently specialise in the treatment of particular ailments, and should be classified not only according to type of climate, but also upon their therapeutic indications. Whatever the chemistry of medicinal waters, their effects are several and complex. The biochemical action of medicinal waters is perhaps of greater moment than hitherto generally believed. Calcium, iodine, bromine, iron, salines, sulphur—all occur in readily assimilable form as a dilute solution of electrolyte in different spa waters, thereby providing a means of restoring to the individual what has been lost by dysfunction and disease. Medicinal springs and baths should be under a public control, ensuring regular analyses, purity, and the preservation of the natural amenities. These resorts should also provide a wide range of electrical, physical, and other accessory means of treatment for the re-education of body functions and structures. Britain being a most favoured land as to spas and health resorts, it is now generally recognised that there is seldom, if ever, medical necessity to winter abroad, unless it be to obtain by altitude, or by dry or sea air, a suitable climate for the tuberculous or asthmatic. On the other hand, there is no doubt that Continental or foreign travel, giving a complete change to body and mind, may often be beneficial in cases of mental strain and nervous trouble, producing a detachment from insular home prejudices, and encouraging an interchange of visits and courtesies from country to country.

#### Control of the Whaling Industry

THE Whaling Industry (Regulation) Bill, which passed almost unobserved through all its stages in the closing days of the parliamentary session, gives effect to one of the most hopeful attempts yet made to secure international action for the protection of animals. The great destruction of whales in antarctic seas has caused anxiety not only to those who would deplore the possible extermination of those great creatures, but also to those concerned for the future of the industry itself. In recent years, the use of 'floating factories', which can operate outside territorial waters, has rendered it impossible for individual Governments to control the industry in the way in which it could be controlled when the factories were on land. By a convention signed in 1931, the Governments represented on the League of Nations at Geneva bound themselves to introduce a system of licensing for all whaling ships registered in their respective countries, and to attach to the licences conditions giving partial or complete protection to certain species of whales. Several other nations have already ratified this convention by passing the