

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