

London Museum. According to a report of the work to date which appears in the *Times* of August 10, it has now become evident that a building unearthed by Mr. A. Cunnington in 1882 and again brought to light by the present operations is a temple and not a villa as was at first believed. It is a Roman building which can be definitely identified as the type of temple peculiar to the Celtic regions of France, Germany and Great Britain during the Roman period. It was square in plan with a raised central shrine and a surrounding verandah. Behind the temple is a little two-roomed bungalow which probably served as the residence of the priest. Near these buildings an interesting discovery was a pit-dwelling cut into the chalk to a depth of more than 10 ft. The sides curve towards the top and originally it was covered with a lid-like roof. The floors of rammed chalk were inserted at various periods and the pit would seem to have been inhabited in the later stages of its history. By the Roman period it was filled up. In cutting through a crossbank dividing off the eastern third of the fortress, in which the temple is situated, pottery and a quern of pre-historic date have been discovered, proving that the hill was occupied as a village before Maiden Castle at its earliest stage came into existence.

Electric Shut-down in London on July 29

A STATEMENT has now been issued by the Central Electricity Board on the failure of the supply in south-east and east England on Sunday, July 29. In this the Board refers to the joint report of the engineers of the C.E.B. and the London Power Company. The engineers state that they have explored every avenue which might elucidate the general failure, and in their opinion there is only one cause which could fully explain it. It must have been the breakdown of one of the turbines at the Deptford West Station of the London Power Company. The Board states that the system has always, even on Sunday loading, sufficient margin of plant in operation to make good immediately the loss of the largest station's output to the system, and it has also sufficient spare plant ready to be put into operation to maintain that margin against the unlikely contingency of a second station breaking down; but the Board had not considered what would happen if two major stations shut down simultaneously. The Sunday disposition of the generating plant had not allowed for this contingency. If such an abnormal event had happened on a week day, the arrangement of the plant is such that a widespread failure could have been avoided. The Board is satisfied that such a combination of untoward circumstances is not likely to recur and there need be no apprehension of any such general failure in the future.

Statistics in Economic Planning

In *Planning* of July 17 (16 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1) emphasis is laid on the importance of settling economic and social problems, so far as possible, by reference to ascertained facts, rather than by the dim light of ancient tradition or with the aid of a flash of alleged inspiration. But if the fact-finding

method is to prevail, certain conditions must be first satisfied. It is necessary to have a technique for collecting and publishing accurately and promptly the right information in the right form. Planning essentially consists of organising knowledge, and bringing it effectively to bear on current problems of economics, politics and sociology. Here is one of the most obvious contrasts between planning and *laissez-faire*. *Laissez-faire* assumed a process of automatic and almost unconscious growth. A few inquisitive persons, such as Bagehot, might occasionally inquire how the system worked, and which way it was going; but opinion on the whole was indifferent, if not hostile, to the gathering, publication and use of systematic facts and figures. The intense secrecy and suspicion still so often encountered when such information is required, is a survival of this prejudice. The forces now at work are tending to break down this obscurantism, so that one of the most notable features of the present time is the sudden growth of statistics and information services. In certain directions, however, necessary statistics have barely begun to be provided. There is no adequate index of the huge changes in the structure of society which have occurred in the past twenty years, and are still occurring under our eyes. Large-scale planning demands a vast expansion of statistics and information services. Some expansion is taking place, but it is at present completely unco-ordinated, and there are immense gaps.

Industrial and Agricultural Statistics

THE Industrial and Agricultural Research Section of the Royal Statistical Society, formed by the Council in 1933, has just issued its first publication as a supplement to part 2, vol. 97 of the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*. The issue will be bi-annual (price 5s. each) and the second number will be published at the same time as part 4 of the current volume of the *Journal*. Some indication of the type of problem considered by the Section is obtained from the titles of the papers comprising the first number, which are as follows: "Application of Statistical Methods to Production and Research in Industry", "Statistics in Agricultural Research", "A New Method of Handling Statistical Data", and "Methods of Estimating from Samples the Population Standard Deviation". In addition, an account is given of the formation of the new section, and a bibliography of papers on agricultural statistics published during 1931-33 is included. The payment of an annual subscription of 10s. (excluding postage) secures both numbers of the supplement each year, and also confers the right to attend the meetings as an associate member of the Section. Orders and subscriptions should be addressed to the assistant secretary, Royal Statistical Society, 9 Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C.2, and marked I.A.R.S.

Poland and Germany

It is not generally realised that Berlin was originally a Slav settlement. In vol. 18 of *Nauka Polska* (Warszawa: Imienia Mianowskiego) Dr. K. Piotrowicz, director of the Library of the Polish Academy