

stamp of all thinking and writing of this character. It is the exact opposite of the scientific frame of mind, and makes one think that the spread of science and the scientific spirit into all realms of thought is one of the two supreme needs of the age.

#### Inauguration of the Mettur Dam and Reservoir

THE development of irrigation in India has taken another notable step forward with the recent completion of the Mettur Dam in the province of Madras, and the occasion of the official opening on August 21 was marked by an impressive ceremony when Sir George Stanley, the Governor of Madras, made the electrical contact which operated the sluice penstocks and released a huge volume of water from the impounded area. The dam and reservoir, which are to take the designation "Stanley", are located on the Cauvery River, 100 miles north-west of Trichinopoly and 180 miles south-west of Madras. The dam, one of the most massive structures of its kind in the world, contains 1,852,000 cubic yards of masonry weighing 3,200,000 tons; it has an over-all length of 5,300 ft., and a height of 176 ft. The reservoir will extend more than 40 miles north of the river, with a circumference of about 100 miles, and will have a capacity of 90,000,000,000 cub. ft. The catchment area is 15,700 square miles in extent and the total area to be irrigated will be rather more than 1,300,000 acres, including some 300,000 acres at present without any form of irrigation. Pipes have been built into the dam to permit of the utilisation of some of the water for the generation of hydro-electric power in a scheme which is now under consideration by the Secretary of State. The cost of the Cauvery-Mettur undertaking is given as about 5½ million sterling. The idea was conceived about a century ago by Sir Arthur Cotton, but work was not begun until 1925 and benefited by the experience gained during the unprecedented floods of the previous year, which caused a revision and extension of the scheme. For his services in connexion with the work, Mr. Clement T. Mullings, who was chief engineer of the project from 1927 until 1931, has received the honour of knighthood.

#### Chronology of Scottish Caves

AN examination of the contents of a large cave at Southend, Kintyre, Argyllshire, by Mr. Hamilton Maxwell, on behalf of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, has yielded in the course of digging through 10 ft. of deposit down to bed-rock a number of relics in bone, horn, bronze and iron, mostly belonging to the early iron age. According to a report in the *Times* of August 28, the object of the investigation was to ascertain the probable date of the erosion of the cave; and for this the date of about 4400 B.C. is now suggested. This conclusion is based upon a comparison with the Oban caves of Azilian date and the butt sites at Oronsay, explored by Messrs. Henderson, Bishop and Ludovic McL. Mann. The Oban caves have been taken as dating from about 13000 B.C. This gives, therefore, a dating for the Scottish levels of a raised beach at 27½ ft., 13000 B.C.;

a sunken beach at a depth of 20 ft., about 8700 B.C.; a raised beach at 9½ ft., about 4400 B.C.; and a sunken beach at a depth of about 7 ft. at about 100 B.C.

#### Meare Lake Village

EXCAVATIONS were resumed on the site of the Meare Lake Village on August 20 and will continue until September 8, or longer, should funds permit. The investigation is being carried on, as usual, under the auspices of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Dr. A. Bulleid and Mr. St. George Gray again being the field directors. The season's work will be directed to the exploration of two areas in the middle of the group of dwellings of the eastern half of the village. The first of these is a confused area of hummocks and hollows, of which the significance is not clear from surface indications. Apparently the mounds overlap and have been much mutilated superficially. The area is surrounded by a rough lias-stone wall, slight in height, of some 70 ft. in diameter. In a report on the work of the first week which appears in the *Times* of August 28, it is stated two clay floors of dwellings have been found under the stones. On the upper floor was one of the most ornate and best preserved weaving-combs of antler as yet found in the lake village remains. The second site under investigation is a dwelling mound of approximately 35 ft. diameter, which apparently has three floors, the uppermost being paved with small lias-stones. At this level, two much-defaced brass Roman coins of the fourth century were found. At lower levels, pre-Roman objects included pottery with 'late-Celtic' ornament, bronze finger-rings and a buckle and a brooch of La Tene III type. A clear glass bead with yellow spirals was found below the floors. Among the animal remains were bones of two beavers, traces of which are rarely found in Great Britain.

#### Excavations in Berkshire

FURTHER particulars of the excavations on the Berkshire Downs to which reference was made in *NATURE* of August 18, p. 244, have been received from Mr. H. J. E. Peake. The site on which was discovered the skeleton of a dog was a round barrow on East Lockinge Down, which is mentioned in the bounds of Lakinge in a charter of A.D. 868. The remains were in the upper and larger of two holes in the chalk near the intersection of trenches dug across the barrow with the object of discovering the ditch, which was not visible on the surface. It was found that the highest point of the barrow is not in the centre. A small hole at the central point, about a foot in diameter, contained burnt human remains, but no grave furniture. The date suggested is the end of the Early Bronze or beginning of the Middle Bronze Age. The irregular round barrow in the parish of East Hendred, from which the remains of the two horses were obtained, was found to have no ditch. Beneath the skeletons of the horses were a number of small objects of Roman date, including fragments of an iron knife and the pin of a bronze