

unlike the 'clock-face' or 'Chinese-lantern' type of signal used frequently in Switzerland and Germany, they give no indication of the length of time that the red or green indication has to remain. They are objectionable as they induce many drivers to accelerate to high speeds in order to pass the signals before they change. The uncertainty of the time of change in the usual type forces the driver to go slowly and this leads to safety. It is probable that vehicle-actuated signals will come into general use in England, and this would make 'clock-face' signals with their fixed time sequence of events practically impossible. An illustrated article on "Traffic Light Control Systems" appears in *Electrical Industries* of November 15.

#### Additions to British Museum Collections

SEVERAL interesting additions to the archaeological and ethnographical collections of the British Museum have been made recently. Among them is a fine totem pole from the Nass River, British Columbia, which is figured and described in the *British Museum Quarterly*, 9, No. 1. The pole was acquired by purchase through Dr. Marius Barbeau, who has collected the legends attached to it. It is about 25 ft. high and originally was surmounted by an eagle, now lost. The figures represented from the top downwards are the 'Geebelk', a fabulous monster with wings and human face, but with a beak instead of a nose, an eagle, a large beaver with a small one on its back, and a sea-monster known as 'the man underneath'. From information obtained locally, this appears to be one of the oldest totem poles on the Nass and one of the finest. Another notable addition to the Department of Ethnography is a series of ancient Peruvian textiles from pre-Spanish cemeteries at Nasca, presented by Mr. Henry van den Bergh. They are excellent examples of the polychrome weaving practised by the coastal tribes, the colours being red, yellow, green and black. They may be dated roughly as belonging to the period 200 B.C. to 200 A.D. Adequate examples of the textile art of this area and period had not previously been acquired by the Museum.

#### Finsbury Technical College and the Central Institution

IN a recent number of the journal of the old students of the City and Guilds (Engineering) College, the *Central*, is a characteristic article by Prof. H. E. Armstrong on "The Beginnings of Finsbury and the Central". Finsbury Technical College in Leonard Street and the Central Institution in South Kensington were both the outcome of the formation in 1877 of the City and Guilds of London Institute for the Advancement of Technical Education, and Prof. Armstrong's article will be read with interest by all those who have been connected with those institutions or the many notable men who held office in them. With Prof. Armstrong at Finsbury were Ayrton and Perry, "the Japanese twins". "We were three of the rankest radicals ever brought together, dissatisfied with the narrow formal teaching then given, each of us with clear-cut constructive ideas for its practical improvement. We were bent on

developing a rational experimental course of instruction, suited as we thought, to the coming needs of students who were to enter industry". So writes Prof. Armstrong, who after a short time was, with Ayrton, appointed to the Central Institution, where he had as colleagues Henrici and Unwin, who "were both dead set in their ideas, and took no special interest in developing method". "The 'Finsbury Spirit' never descended upon the Central Institution and other colleges set up to rival it and some day Leonard Street will figure upon the map as a small oasis in the midst of a great London educational desert". A sketch of the history of Finsbury College was given in the *Central* of July 1933.

#### Map of the Roman Empire

WE have received from the Ordnance Survey the Aberdeen sheet of the International Map of the Roman Empire on the scale of 1 to 1,000,000. The sheet covers the greater part of Scotland north of the Firth of Forth. Heights are shown by layer colours of two tints of green and three of brown. Spot heights in metres give actual altitudes; there are no contour lines. Modern names are confined to those of water features, and they are printed in blue. Roman features and place-names, which are of course few on this sheet, appear in black. Tribes are named in red. Forts, temporary camps and signal stations are differentiated. There is only one Roman road. Scales and index to adjoining sheets appear in the margin. The sheet is a beautifully clear piece of colour printing.

#### Protection against X-Rays and Radium

THE British X-Ray and Radium Protection Committee has recently issued a fourth revised report. It includes recommendations on the working hours for whole-time X-ray and radium workers. In addition to formulating precautions that should be observed by these workers, the report also deals with the safe use and storage of inflammable films, the safe use of electromedical apparatus, and precautions to be observed in the application of ultra-violet treatment and to ensure proper dosage. The Protection Committee will welcome suggestions or information which might tend to improve its scheme of protection outlined. Copies of the report may be had on application to the Secretaries, 32 Welbeck Street, W.1, or to the Director, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex.

#### Exhibition of International Architecture

ON November 30 H.R.H. the Princess Royal is to open an Exhibition of International Architecture at the new headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects in Portland Place, the inauguration ceremony of which was performed by the King and Queen early this month. The Exhibition will be the first of its kind ever held, and will provide a comprehensive panorama of modern building and planning. It will be divided into ten sections, illustrative of the whole of modern life. There will be, for example, a section devoted to planning for pleasure, containing