

mistake is not their own. The advice of Francis Galton, "Never resent criticism and never reply to it", is good, though hard to follow by those not possessing Galton's saintly disposition and philosophical calm.

#### Statistics and Inductive Inference

In a paper read before the Royal Statistical Society on December 18, Prof. R. A. Fisher surveyed the recent change in the outlook of mathematical statisticians. The most profound modification seems to have taken place rather in the logical than in the mathematical aspect, though it has been brought about by the resolution of mathematical difficulties. Statisticians are now dealing with types of uncertain inference wider than those of the theory of probability. Prof. Fisher expressed the view that the current teaching of pure mathematics is not an altogether adequate preparation for fruitful work in this field, for this teaching is purely deductive, omitting the essential concepts of inductive logic, and insists on 'rigour' in a limited sense which he considers very inadequate to the requirements of an inductive problem. The questions raised by Prof. Fisher are of great interest and importance, but it should not be overlooked that there is still some difference of opinion concerning them, as will be seen by a perusal of the series of papers in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* (1932-4) by Dr. H. Jeffreys.

#### Early Man in North America

DR. FRANK H. H. ROBERTS, JR., according to a communication issued by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., has discovered in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, in northern Colorado, a habitation site and factory of 'Folsom' man. This discovery is of the greatest importance for American archaeology, as not only is it the oldest known habitation site in America, but it is also the first occasion upon which there has been any indication of the mode of life of the peoples by whom the 'Folsom' points were made, beyond the bare fact that they were hunting tribes of a high antiquity—a deduction from the association of these points with the bones of extinct bison, musk ox and mammoth, known to have pastured at the edge of the ice-sheet. The 'Folsom' points, it will be remembered, were first discovered five years ago at Folsom in New Mexico, and since then these finely-chipped flint implements have been found, frequently in association with extinct mammals, all over the United States from New Mexico to Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is thought by some authorities that they point to the existence of man in America several thousand years earlier than had previously been supposed. Dr. Roberts's discovery provides something of a cultural background for these scattered finds. The site he has now discovered rests upon a hard, chalk-like formation with about fifty feet of alluvial deposits above it. These must have been laid down very slowly. It is about a quarter of a mile in extent, but as yet only a small part has been excavated. The relics represent

several camp sites occupied over a period of years. Flint nodules from which the implements were manufactured are plentiful. Thirty characteristic points and a great variety of scrapers, rough stone blades, drills, engraving tools and hammerstones, with a large number of broken animal bones, have been collected.

#### Antiquity

WITH its December issue, *Antiquity* completes its eighth year. The editor of the only free-lance journal entirely devoted to archaeological matters is to be congratulated on his success in having carried through this enterprise successfully and without the assistance of any official organisation, in a period of exceptional difficulty. While there is undoubtedly a considerable public which is interested in archaeological discovery up to a point, to hold that interest requires both tact and judgment. The editor, whose aim is to present to his readers scientifically sound and accurate information of the latest movements in archaeological discovery in a popular form, has a difficult course to steer, if he is to avoid the appeal to the sensationalism which flavours the news of 'finds' as it appears in most of the daily Press. On the other hand, the editor of *Antiquity*, both by his own 'tilting' in his unconventional notes and otherwise, encourages his contributors to an engaging freedom of treatment which in itself adds no little attraction to the pages of his periodical. The contents of *Antiquity* of December illustrate these qualities admirably. If, for example, Mr. Noel Myres' criticism of Dr. Mortimer Wheeler's article in a previous issue on the topography of Saxon London ventilates further a subject which is of perennial interest to a wide circle, Dr. Wheeler's reply will appeal equally to those who appreciate learning worn lightly. Among the remaining contents of this issue, which are as a whole no less attractive, it is, perhaps, permissible to refer to the contribution by Sir George Macdonald on the Romans in the Middle East, which is an illuminating commentary on M. A. Poidebard's recently published air survey of the Roman frontier in Syria. Like its predecessors, this issue fully supports the editor's appeal for an extended circulation to ensure the continued existence of a publication which is doing excellent work for archaeological science by keeping its achievement before a wider public than is reached through channels of a more formal nature.

#### Thermo-remanence of Bricks

A LETTER has been received from Mr. T. G. Bocking, Princes Chambers, 6 Corporation Street, Birmingham, 2, giving an account of some observations on the magnetic properties of bricks. Bricks were selected from a number of South Staffordshire kilns, the direction in which the bricks were lying when baked being noted. The polarity was most clearly marked when the bricks had been lying in a north-south direction, and it was found that the bricks were magnetised approximately along the line of magnetic dip. Among the bricks examined were