

importance of Polynesian, and particularly Maori, studies. He maintained that the white people should learn the language and appreciate to a greater extent the mental and spiritual outlook of the Maori people. While he regretted that it is no longer true, as it was thirty years ago, that at least one third of the Legislature is acquainted with the Maori language and outlook, he hoped that improvement would come from the endowment left to promote knowledge of the manners, customs and language of the Polynesians by the late Prof. Macmillan Brown, whose enlightened aspirations had given him personally immense encouragement.

#### Recent Archæological Finds in Ireland

AN authoritative article on recent Irish excavations by Mr. Sean F. O'Riordan, of the National Museum of Ireland, appears in the April number of *Discovery*. During the year 1934, the National Museum received an unusual number of accessions of exceptional interest as the result of casual discovery. Among these were the remarkable gold gorget of about 700 B.C. from Co. Clare, the bronze age wooden shield—only the second known—from Co. Mayo, the fine Middle Bronze Age rapier from Co. Tipperary and much noteworthy Viking material from Co. Dublin. The greatest advance in the study of Irish archæology, however, has been due to the participation of archæologists in carrying out the Government's scheme for unemployment. This has made possible systematic investigation on an extended scale on an unprecedented number of sites. No less than twelve excavations were carried out in various parts of the country, ranging in date of the period under investigation from post-glacial times to the fifteenth century A.D. The number of workmen engaged on individual sites in these operations varied from twelve on the smallest to fifty on the largest.

The results of the investigation of the sequence of events in post-glacial times at Ballybetagh are already well known, owing to the interest aroused by the pollen analysis, though the report is not yet complete. Another investigation of wide general interest, although purely negative in result, is that in the cave of Kilgreany, Co. Waterford. Some years ago members of the Bristol Spelæological Society claimed to have found there human remains of palæolithic age. The present investigation has not substantiated this, and evidence of palæolithic man in Ireland is still to be sought. Questions of major interest are also solved at Cush, near Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, where for the first time ring forts were found in a series of six, a souterrain was for the first time definitely dated so early as pre-Late Bronze Age, and the Irish town, previously not known before Viking times, was shown to have existed so far back as the Bronze Age.

#### Major-General A. W. Greely

THE American explorer Major-General A. W. Greely, who has just reached the age of ninety-one years, is reported by *The Times* to have been

awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour of the United States for heroism on his Arctic expedition of 1881–84. That expedition was the contribution of the United States to the International Polar Stations of 1882–83. Under Lieut. Greely's leadership, three officers and nineteen men were landed in Discovery Harbour in Grant Land (Ellesmere Island). The main objects were meteorological and magnetical observations, but Lieuts. Greely and Lockwood carried out extensive explorations in Grant and Grinnell Lands, and Lieut. Lockwood made the northern record to lat. 83° 24' N. The relief ship was prevented by ice from reaching the camp in 1882 and again in 1883. Lieut. Greely then decided to retreat to the south with much depleted equipment and scanty stores. Near Cape Sabine in Smith Sound, they passed their third winter. Already scurvy had taken a heavy toll and the remaining men were scarcely able to hunt; fuel and food were practically exhausted when in June 1884 relief reached them in the *Thetis*. Only seven men were alive; not one could walk without assistance and at the time there seemed little likelihood of any living long enough to reach an American port. General Greely was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1886 for the excellence of his Arctic work.

#### Henry Fuseli (1741–1825)

A RENEWED interest in the work of the Swiss artist Henry Fuseli (1741–1825) is being taken at present through an exhibition of some of his paintings and drawings at Ryder Street, London, S.W.1. Fuseli came to London at a time when Germany was anxious to establish channels of literary communication with England. Among those whose acquaintance he cultivated was Johnson, the radical bookseller of St. Paul's churchyard, where Priestley usually stayed when he came from the provinces to the metropolis. Both Fuseli and Priestley were in holy orders, occupied occasionally with pamphleteering and possessing considerable linguistic abilities. In Thorpe's "History of Chemistry" is a portrait of Priestley delineated by Fuseli in which the discoverer of oxygen is depicted with more femininity of expression than is usually associated with such a free lance. Fuseli became one of the 'lions' of London society and an indispensable guest at many a fashionable dinner table. He was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral between the graves of Opie and Reynolds.

#### Professor of Astronomy at the Royal Institution

AT the general monthly meeting of the members of the Royal Institution, held on April 1, it was resolved to establish a professorship of astronomy. Sir James Jeans was nominated, and in the event of his election at the ballot on May 7, will become the first professor of astronomy in the Institution. The last occasion when a new chair was created was the year 1863. This was for Dr. (afterwards Sir Edward) Frankland, who was elected to a separate professorship of chemistry while Faraday was still the Fulmerian professor of chemistry. Frankland's professor-