

report which appears in *The Times* of September 3. A stepped stone plinth, five feet square, in the centre of which there still remains *in situ* the base of a column of Purbeck marble, 1 ft. 3 in. in diameter, has been found approximately in the centre and in contact with the eastern face of the outer wall of the temple. The steps on the southern face of the plinth still retain portions of the original plaster, and on one fragment of the latter there are faint traces of colour. It is suggested that the column and plinth may be the surviving evidence of an altar which once faced the entrance of the temple. Flanking the plinth to the north and south, at approximately 11 ft. from the north-east and south-east corners of the outer wall respectively, are remains of packed rubble foundations, on which may have stood plinths of a similar nature to that which has been discovered facing the main entrance. At present, owing to their mutilated condition, and until further examination has been made, any conclusion would be premature. The drastic manner in which the temple was destroyed ultimately is, it is pointed out, indicated by the fact that only in the south-east corner of the wall of the *cella* does any portion of the original construction remain.

Funds for Archæological Exploration in Britain

SIR FREDERIC KENYON, in his first presidential address to the Society of Antiquaries of London, which now appears in full in the *Antiquaries Journal*, 15, 3, stresses the difficulties which beset archæological excavation in Great Britain through the lack of men and money. Of the two, he feels constrained, and rightly, to lay greater emphasis on the latter. Few archæological excavations, he points out, are, like Verulamium, able to 'live on the country' and rely for any considerable proportion of their cost on a constant stream of visitors. Probably most excavators would regard such a solution of their difficulties as something of a calamity, in view of the constant interruption of their work. In the report of the Council, appearing concurrently with the presidential address, an appeal is made for support for the Society's Research Fund, which at present is not adequate to permit subvention of local funds by any amount which is more than an expression of goodwill. The Society is also faced for some time to come with responsibility for the excavation of Maiden Castle at Dorchester. Archæological exploration on any considerable scale is an especially expensive form of scientific research, and is usually beyond local resources. Sir Frederic suggests that the difficulties of the present situation might be met by the formation of a central fund, administered by such a body as the Society of Antiquaries through the machinery of the Congress of Archæological Societies. If this suggestion were adopted, it need not interfere with local interest, but should rather serve to stimulate it. It would also help to co-ordinate archæological research—a matter of no little moment; but not the least advantage it offers is that it would facilitate prompt action when, in these days of rapid development for building, it might be urgently necessary immediately to follow up some chance discovery.

International Congress of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences

THE Second International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, in accordance with the decision taken in 1932 when the first session was held in London, will take place at Oslo in 1936. The Congress will meet early in August. Invitations and a preliminary statement are now being issued by the organising committee in Norway. The president will be Prof. A. W. Brøgger; and Juhs Bøe, Sigurd Grieg and Prof. J. L. Myres will act as general secretaries. The subscription has been fixed at 25 kr. for members and 12 kr. for associates. Enrolments and subscriptions should be addressed to the Bureau of the Congress, Universitetets Oldsaksamling, Oslo. Those who wish to contribute to the proceedings are requested to inform their national representative on the Conseil Permanent before March 1, 1936, and to forward an abstract of their communication to the organising committee before May next. The representatives of Great Britain on the Conseil Permanent are Prof. J. L. Myres, Sir Charles Peers and Prof. V. Gordon Childe (University of Edinburgh), and Mr. C. E. P. Hawkes (British Museum, Bloomsbury, London, W.C.1), secretaries. The organising committee announces that communications dealing with the topics which have been selected for discussion, as mentioned below, will be especially welcomed.

ON broad lines the arrangement of the proceedings will follow that of the London congress, when the members met in five sections, dealing respectively with human palæontology and the evolution of prehistoric man, the stone and metal ages in the ancient world and as found elsewhere, and the transition from prehistoric to historic. Special attention will be given to the discussion of certain Scandinavian problems in relation to the prehistoric archæology of Europe and the ancient world at large. The topics proposed, which were approved by the Conseil Permanent at Berne in December last, are: the excavations on stone age sites in Finmark of the last ten years, rock engravings in Norway and elsewhere, the Iron Age farms of Norway, the history of Teutonic art forms in the fifth and sixth centuries, and the textiles of Oseberg. It is possible that the domestic animals of prehistoric times and the origin of the runic alphabet may also be included, but this question has yet to be decided. The organising committee is anxious that problems arising out of these subjects should be discussed as thoroughly as possible on broad lines.

Co-operative Buying

IT is now generally recognised in large-scale business that considerable economies can be obtained through the establishment of a central purchasing department, and in the Second Report of the Committee on the Standardisation and Simplification of the Requirements of Local Authorities (H.M. Stationery Office, 6d. net), a similar policy is urged on local authorities. The larger local authorities are recommended to co-ordinate the buying of their various departments while smaller authorities are advised to co-operate with other