Horse Mummification in Ancient Egypt

MUMMIFICATION of sacred animals is a familiar practice in the annals of Ancient Egypt, especially in the later periods. A discovery of what is thought to be the earliest known example of the mummification of a horse has recently been made on the hill of Sheikh Abdel Kurneh, on the west bank of the Nile at Thebes, by an expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of New York under the field direction of Mr. Winlock. The expedition is carrying on Mr. Winlock's excavation interrupted in 1927, when he discovered the tomb of Sen-Mut, the architect of the famous temple of Queen Hat-shepsut at Deir el-Bahari. The work of the present season, it is stated in a dispatch from Cairo in *The Times* of April 6, has brought to light the intact tombs of Ra'mose and Hatnufer, the father and mother of Sen-Mut. In clearing the bottom of the ravine preparatory to opening the rock chamber, in which the burials were found, the body of a horse was uncovered in the limestone clip. It had been mummified and wrapped and enclosed in an enormous coffin. It is of the xviiith dynasty and, therefore, probably the oldest horse burial found in Egypt up to the present. The rock chamber was crowded with funerary material, including jars and baskets containing linen, food, and in one instance a silver bowl and two small pitchers for mixing wine. Two jars are dated the seventh year of Tuthmosis III, while some of the linen and jar sealings bear titles of Hat-shepsut when she declared herself King of Egypt. On one side of the chamber were uninscribed rectangular coffins and on the other anthropoid coffins bearing inscriptions indicating that they contained the bodies of Ra'mose and Hatnufer. Neither had an official title.

Messrs. Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, Ltd.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the firm of Messrs. Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, Ltd., manufacturing opticians and engineers, was celebrated on Monday, April 6, by a dinner given by the directors to all employees and a few guests. The brothers Mr. Thomas Smithies Taylor and Mr. William Taylor, F.R.S., were the founders of the business in 1886. The first lenses produced by the firm were known as Rapid Rectilinear lenses. These were followed by single achromatic 'View' lenses and wide angle lenses. Mr. William Taylor at this time devoted a great deal of attention to establishing the manufacture of lenses and lens parts on an interchangeable basis, and providing means of cutting screw threads accurately. The abruptly started thread was devised and patented, and he started the practice of measuring screw threads trigonometrically with a micrometer, and with little cylinders, or wires, put between the threads, and of measuring threading tools and the amount by which they were shortened from a theoretically perfect point, by means of a notched bar. The methods were gradually developed and led to the manufacture of the engraving machine which is now well-known as the 'Taylor-Hobson Engraver'. Mr. W. Taylor has served on many standardisation committees and was responsible for establishing the principle that in gauging screw threads, the 'go' gauge must include all the elements and the 'no-go' gauges deal with them separately, except that pitch and effective diameter must be gauged concurrently. The election of Mr. W. Taylor as a fellow of the Royal Society in 1934 was a *mark* of recognition by British men of science of his pioneer work in the application of mechanical engineering to the manufacture of optical instruments, and the improvements of photographic lenses.

The Aberdeenshire Dee

RIVER FLOW RECORDS, the private organisation directed by Capt. W. N. McClean, has just issued in brochure form (Parliament Mansions, London, S.W.1. 10*s*. 6*d*.) a complete account with diagrams of the observations and readings taken for the year 1935 in connexion with the survey of the River Dee (Aberdeenshire), comprising records of water-level, flow and rainfall. The diagrams, in four sheets, exhibit in coloured outline the monthly water-levels at Cairnton Gauge Post in 3-hourly averages, and the aggregate rainfall and run-off over a catchment area approximately of 528 square miles. The value of these monthly diagrams has been enhanced since their publication for 1934 by the inclusion of the maximum and minimum temperatures and wind at Balmoral and by the incidence of rainfall from the automatic rain gauge. Thus the occurrence of snow and the effect of temperature in increasing or diminishing the flow become clear in winter and spring months. The effect of wind is not obvious, and it appears likely that certain changes in water-level, which, locally, are attributed to strong down-stream winds, may be due to temperature.

ONE aim of the records is the comparison of rainfall with run-off. Daily rainfall observations were taken from ten gauges widely distributed over the area, and acknowledgments are made of the assistance rendered by the Meteorological Office at Edinburgh, the British Rainfall Organization, the Royal Meteorological Society and voluntary observers. The mean annual rainfall on the area of 528 square miles given by the British Rainfall Organization is 42 in.; the year 1935 provided 42·7 in. and 1934, 48·4 in., deduced from daily observations at the ten gauges mentioned above, combined with the mean distribution of rainfall on the area. Assessed at the end of September in each year, when the ground saturation is generally low and therefore negligible, the residual loss was 8·34 in. in 1933; 11.48 in. in 1934 and 7·36 in. in 1935. The operations of River Flow Records are extremely valuable as an aid to a national inland water survey, and the report suggests the formation of a committee of river interests, under the independent patronage of the county, to carry the Dee survey to fruition, but "the final picture would be incomplete" without the central supervision and financial support of the Government.

Protection of Wild Life in Africa

THE Convention for the Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa, signed on behalf of nine Governments in London on November 8, 1933, became