

News and Views

Sir James Frazer, O.M., F.R.S.

At a dinner and reception given by Mme. M. Levinskaya at 2 Leinster Gardens, W.1., on February 17 in honour of Sir James Frazer and to celebrate his attaining the age of eighty-three years on January 1 last, Prof. B. Malinowski spoke in appreciation of his contribution to the study of man. After referring to the pre-eminent position long held by Sir James among anthropologists, he said that while such pioneers in the study of the early forms of religion as Mannhardt, Tylor and others looked to animism and the belief in spirits, Sir James was the first to indicate the place and junction of magic in primitive belief and to demonstrate the significance of magical practice and ritual in man's early conceptions of the universe. Further, that what Andrew Lang some twenty-five or thirty years ago flippantly termed "the Covent Garden school of anthropology", had become the fundamental principle in a great body of anthropological investigation into such beliefs as that of the spirit of fertility, the mother goddess and the like; while what was intended to be no more than a short essay of twelve pages dealing with the Priest of Nemi had grown into the twelve volumes of "The Golden Bough". Of all Frazer's great qualities, the most marked, as well as the most immediately striking, was his transparent and single-minded devotion to the cause of truth. He had never been so wedded to his own theories as to seek to impose them upon others in such a manner as to obstruct the attainment of the truth. He had never hesitated to abandon a theory which conflicted with further examination of the facts or fresh evidence, as was shown by the development of his views on totemism. In conclusion, Prof. Malinowski pointed out that, in principle, the studies upon which Sir James had been engaged were not confined to primitive man alone; they were equally applicable to our modern civilization—an application especially needed in the conditions of the world to-day.

Native Policy in Northern Rhodesia

SOME important observations on policy, present and future, in the administration of native affairs in Northern Rhodesia were made by the Governor of that Dependency, Sir Hubert Young, when addressing the members of the East African group of the Overseas League at Overseas House on February 19. It was evident from his remarks that, while the cosmopolitan population of the mining area naturally is concerned primarily with the interests of copper, the most important industry in the country, the outlook on the native question is somewhat different in other districts. In a country in which there are one and three quarter million natives to eleven thousand Europeans, it is recognized, Sir Hubert said, that the

native has a right to have work most suited to him. Presumably it would be legitimate to interpret this as meaning, in less diplomatic terms, that the development of the native along lines in harmony with his own culture is to be the aim of administration, rather than the exploitation of labour solely to meet the needs of a European industry, important though this may be. An announcement, welcome in this connexion, was that an anthropological institute is to be established. This will ensure—or at least, so it may be hoped—that native custom and cultural trends will be studied thoroughly in order to meet the needs of administration. It will certainly afford an indispensable aid in the attempt which is now being made to re-establish the native organization and the native authorities. Sir Hubert Young expressed himself as "rather a heretic" in the matter of indirect rule. In view of the difficulties of re-establishing a system which now for some years has been in process of disintegration, it will perhaps be wise not to expect too much. At the same time, in regarding it as a training only, Sir Hubert wisely emphasized a fact often overlooked, that indirect rule cannot be an end in itself.

Archæological Investigations in Western Asia

SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY, accompanied by members of his archæological expedition, left England on February 23 for Syria, where excavations will be resumed on sites in the Antioch region early in March. The personnel of the expedition includes Lady Woolley, Mr. E. A. Lane of the Victoria and Albert Museum, who was with Sir Leonard at Ur, and Mr. Murray Threipland, who was a member of the expedition last year. Work will be resumed on both the coast and the inland sites. Results from the latter will be awaited with special interest, in view of the significance of the evidence obtained last year from a preliminary examination of the site of Tell Atchana on the River Orontes, which, as Sir Arthur Evans has pointed out, when viewed in conjunction with the evidence from the other Syrian site of Ras Shamra and that from Palestine, for the first time carries the relation between this region of western Asia and Minoan Crete back so far as 1700 B.C. Further indications are not wanting that the diversion by circumstance of the preoccupations of archæologists from the Mesopotamian area to peripheral regions, which to many at first sight seemed deplorable, will have speedy and far-reaching beneficial effects. Especially worthy of note in this connexion are the recent discoveries of the Neilson Expedition of the University of Liverpool on Cilician sites at Serkehi (*The Times*, Feb. 13) and of Miss Winifred Lamb, whose report on recent developments in the pre-history of Anatolia was presented before the Society of Antiquaries on February 19.

MISS LAMB, before dealing with her own excavations on the newly discovered site at Kusura, which began in 1935, pointed out that recent archaeological investigations in Anatolia had deduced from the surface examination of prehistoric mounds and the excavation of two or three large sites, that during the Bronze Age two main cultures were to be distinguished, of which one, a western, had affinities with Troy, and the second, a central and eastern culture, was marked by the principal Hittite remains. Kusura lies on the southernmost of three routes from east to west of which one extends to Troy, the second to the coast near Smyrna, while the third, with which she was concerned, traverses the upland plains south of Afyonkarahissar. The town itself, it would appear, was occupied for the first time about the end of the fourth millennium B.C. A cemetery yielded pottery markedly local in character, unlike anything found elsewhere in Asia Minor. This strongly marked local character in the culture Miss Lamb found to persist even at the end of the Bronze Age, when there were signs of Hittite influence as well as of connexions with Troy. Further evidence relating to the 'indigenous' culture and its contacts with east and west will obviously be of considerable interest, especially in view of the results obtained by the Neilson Expedition at Serkeli, where also, judging from the preliminary report, there appears to be a strongly marked local culture. This is clearly of considerable antiquity, as it underlies levels which correspond with the earliest culture of El Obeid and Arpachiyeh in Mesopotamia. The stratum in question is said to be nine feet thick and to lie at a level of twenty-five feet below the Hittite levels. Its distinguishing feature is a peculiar painted pottery and plain pottery, while obsidian and flint were in use.

Promotion of International Equity

A PRELIMINARY outline of the proposals of the New Commonwealth Society for the creation of an equity tribunal for the settlement of non-justifiable disputes between nations is contained in a pamphlet, "An International Equity Tribunal", which has just been issued by the Society. It is urged that three institutions are required: (1) a body endowed with the legislative function and with the power to effect peaceful changes in the public law; (2) a court to interpret that law; and (3) a police force to uphold the decisions of the Court and to maintain law and order. The League of Nations is considered the foundation upon which the structure of an enduring peace is to be built, and these institutions should form part of its permanent machinery. By an equity tribunal is meant an impartial or neutral body which is called upon to investigate a political or industrial dispute, and the findings or awards of which are based upon natural justice. Consequently an international equity tribunal would be capable of effecting peaceful change in the public law, including the revision of treaties, and would be empowered to arbitrate upon all political disputes which cannot be settled by negotiation and conciliation. The members of the equity tribunal would require to

sever their connexion with the Governments and politics of their respective countries and devote their time exclusively to the service of the tribunal and of the League. An embryonic example of the working of an equity tribunal may be seen in the Lytton Commission, and a further stage towards the development of the tribunal system would be the creation of permanent committees by the Council or the Assembly in place of such *ad hoc* bodies.

It is suggested that the formation of an equity tribunal with a permanent and independent status, with members elected in the same way as the judges of the Permanent Court, is likely to provide the most effective machinery for the adjudication of political disputes and the revision of treaties. Its addition to the machinery of the League would disarm the assertion of certain non-members that the League is simply a vehicle for protecting and sponsoring special interests. The tribunal would be related to the Permanent Court, possibly as an independent division, with a personnel not consisting mainly of lawyers, and enforcement of its awards in the last resort would be secured by the existence of an international police force. The pamphlet is obtainable from the New Commonwealth Society, which has established itself as one of the most active organizations working in the field of international peace. Particulars of its work and conditions of membership can be obtained from the Secretary, Thorney House, Smith Square, Westminster, S.W.1.

Organization in Petroleum Research

RESEARCH is necessary in practically every phase of the petroleum industry to-day and, in view of its importance, should be prosecuted in the most efficient and economic manner possible. In a paper read before the Institution of Petroleum Technologists on December 8, J. H. Vermuelen discussed the organization of research. The main point to which he directed attention was that although decentralization is inevitable in every petroleum company owing to its very nature, yet its technical and administrative activities should be controlled and guided by a central laboratory. The laboratory should be so designed and equipped that routine and ordinary research can be carried out at the same time as applied and pure research and, while there should be no interference between the two types of research, yet there should be ample facilities for exchange of ideas. The routine function of the central laboratory should be to collect technical and commercial data from all branches of the company, systematize it and render it available in a convenient form for reference.

At the same meeting of the Institution, W. C. Asbury and D. A. Shepard threw further light on the organization of research by a description of methods adopted by the Standard Oil Co. (N.J.). Since its inception, sixty-five years ago, the company has been engaged continuously in research, and has had to meet the diversified interests and needs of several hundred subsidiary companies. Its technical