

small settlements declined, and large settlements again prevailed, in order that the population might be near the centres of commerce and industry, which grew up with European settlement. The introduction of wooden houses put a further check on the nomadic habits of the people.

The mummy caves at Querrortut were also investigated. Though much disordered by a previous party of archaeological investigation, remains of desiccated bodies were found, which may be attributed to interment and not to incarceration and death from starvation. The occurrence of grave goods points to the pagan period, and tentatively a sixteenth century date is assigned.

Summarizing his survey of prehistoric Eskimo culture in Greenland, Dr. Mathiassen reconstructs their ethnic history by attributing to them an origin in arctic Canada, whence they came about a thousand years ago, with whale-bone houses and the Thule culture, to settle in the Cape York District. Thence they passed southward over Melville Bay to northern West Greenland, where they remained for several hundred years, encountering the Norsemen travelling northward, and changing the Thule culture into the Inugsuk

culture. In the fourteenth century the growth of population forced them to seek new hunting fields. South Greenland was populated in the course of this century, the Norsemen being overrun. A group of Eskimo wandered around Cape Farewell to the east coast and far to the north along the coast. In the seventeenth century Polar Eskimo migrated north about Greenland and mixed with north-east Greenland's early population. Shortly afterwards, West Greenlanders reached Angmagssalik, while a small remnant of survivors from the first immigration to the east coast at Kangerdingsuaq died out, as also did the inhabitants of north-east Greenland. In West Greenland, however, the population grew rapidly, helped by Danish settlement; while at Cape York there was still a remnant of the old Thule Eskimo, helped by a new immigration from Baffinland.

On the general Eskimo problem, Dr. Mathiassen expresses the opinion that it cannot be solved in Greenland. He is, however, unable to accept K. Birket-Smith's Caribou Eskimo theory, which makes Eskimo culture a link in a circumpolar inland culture, first created in the central parts of arctic Canada. The Thule culture points to Alaska and possibly Siberia.

## The Halle Academy, 1652-1937

THE Kaiserlich Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher at Halle has recently celebrated the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the granting of its charter. In 1652, soon after the end of the Thirty Years' War, there was founded by four physicians, in the Reichsstadt of Schweinfurth, a scientific society under the name of *Academia Naturae Curiosorum*. The principal founder and first president, Johann Lorenz Bausch, had studied in Italy and become acquainted with the local academies of that day, and especially with the *Lyncæorum Academia*, now *Accademia Reale dei Lincei*; he was also influenced by the writings of Bacon of Verulam. In 1677 the Emperor Leopold I recognized the society as the Academy of the Holy Roman Empire, and ten years later the same prince bestowed upon it considerable privileges and the title of *Sacri Romani Imperii Academia Cæsareo-Leopoldina Naturæ Curiosorum*. Arms were granted, with the motto: "Nunquam otiosus"; the president and the editor of the ephemerides received golden chains of office; they and their successors became counts palatine of the Holy Roman Empire; as such they could legitimize bastards, confirm the liberation of

slaves and perform other legal functions. They could, moreover, confer the titles of doctor, licentiate, master and bachelor, in the faculties of medicine, philosophy and laws; they could even appoint poets laureate. The doctorates so conferred were to secure the same privileges as those given by the universities. The publications of the Academy were exempted from censorship and protected as to copyright.

The Academy has survived the Empire from which its privileges were derived; these privileges were never abolished, but their exercise fell into abeyance. So did the curious custom, recognized in the imperial charter of 1687, of giving 'symbolic' names to its members; thus the first president was known as Jason I, his successor as Argonauta I. Meetings also fell into abeyance, and the activities of the Academy became restricted to the publication of a scientific periodical and to the administration of its library and museum. The location of the latter at first changed with that of the president, until the Academy became definitely established at Halle. Its natural history collections have been dispersed, but its library remains rich in valuable periodicals, of which a recently

published catalogue enumerates some 3,650 items ("Verzeichnis der periodischen Schriften der Bibliothek der Kaiserlich Leopoldinisch-Carolinisch Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher, Halle (Saale)", 1937). The most important work of the Leopoldine Academy has been the publication of a journal, *Miscellanea curiosa medico-physica Academiae naturæ curiosorum sive Ephemerides Germanicæ*, started in 1670 and probably the oldest scientific periodical. In the eighteenth century this valuable journal changed its name to *Acta physico-medica* and then to *Nova acta*; in 1932 a new series, *Nova Acta Leopoldina*, was started.

Various scientific funds have been lost as the result of economic upheaval, but a bequest by Christian Andreas Cothenius, the physician of Frederick the Great, is still operative; in accordance with it, a medal is from time to time awarded for scientific research. A second medal and a research fund was more recently instituted in memory of Auguste Henri Forel, the biologist and sociologist.

It will be seen from the above account that in modern times the Cæsareo-Leopoldina has received no official protection, nor been subject to governmental control. It is one of the oldest of scientific societies; the Royal Society has indeed the older charter, the Lincei Academy the longer history, albeit not so continuous. The present year is the two hundred and fiftieth after the granting of privileges by Leopold I, and this anniversary was celebrated at Halle on May 28-30. The commemoration was attended by representatives of numerous universities, academies and societies, both German and foreign, who were welcomed in the aula of the University by Prof. E. Abder-

halden, the president of the Academy, who has done much to stimulate its activities. His opening address, a historical retrospect, was followed by official congratulations from the rector of the University and the mayor of the city. Then came brief speeches on behalf of the Royal Society of London, the Accademia delle Scienze of Bologna, the Accademia dei Lincei of Rome, the Academies of Vienna, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Tokyo, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, at Boston, the Kartell of the German Academies (Berlin, Göttingen, Munich, Leipzig, Heidelberg), etc. It was announced that a sum of 44,000 marks had been collected from numerous donors, to be used henceforth as a research fund.

A very noteworthy lecture was then delivered by Prof. Hans Spemann, of Freiburg, on his recent researches concerning the nature of animal development. Finally, the Cothenius medal, referred to above, was awarded to Profs. Dante de Blasi (Rome), Ostertag (Tübingen), Franz Volhard (Frankfurt), G. Barger (Edinburgh), Max le Blanc (Leipzig), Armin Tschermak-Seysenegg (Prague) and Eugen Fischer (Berlin). In the evening there was a banquet with a few speeches. Next day further lectures were given; there was an admirable performance of an operetta in the municipal theatre, and a pleasantly informal reception by the Oberbürgermeister; the third day, a Sunday, was devoted to an excursion in the country.

In connexion with this very successful celebration, there have been printed the above-quoted catalogue of periodicals in the Academy's library, and a well-illustrated *Festgabe* containing three historical essays and Prof. Spemann's lecture.

## International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling

THE International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling, which was published on June 23, marks an important stage in the development of whaling regulation. It was the work of a conference at which eleven Governments interested in whaling participated. They met on May 24, and sat almost daily until June 8, when the Agreement was signed. The drastic nature of its provisions are eloquent of the practically world-wide conviction that whaling can be saved from collapse only if it is rationally regulated: while a note under the title "Final Act", which is appended to the Agreement, indicates that the possibility is recognized that actual restriction of

whaling effort may prove necessary if that end is to be achieved.

In the early stages of modern antarctic whaling, the scale on which destruction of the whale stock was wrought made the need of regulation apparent. The Falkland Islands Government, which controlled practically all antarctic land stations, gradually built up a system of regulations and—a feature not yet attempted for whaling as a whole, restriction of the number of whaling vessels—which, while provisional in character owing to lack of information, may be said to have proved adequate until the late 'twenties, when the building of ships capable of working up the whales