

vault a little more pointed than the modern skull. It will be remembered that Prof. F. G. Parsons some years ago examined a large number of seventeenth and eighteenth century skulls of Londoners, when a graveyard, presumably of the adjacent St. Clement Danes, was discovered on the demolition of King's College Hospital in Portugal Street. He then concluded that little change had taken place in the physical characters of the Londoner during the last two or three hundred years, except that the skull showed a slight tendency to broaden.

Recent Excavation at Meare, Somerset

A FORTNIGHT'S work of excavation at Meare Lake Village by Mr. H. St. George Gray and Dr. A. H. Bulleid has brought to light an interesting variant in the method of constructing their dwellings employed by the inhabitants. The season's work, as already indicated (see NATURE, Aug. 28, p. 352), is directed to the investigation of the central portion of the eastern half of the village. Excavation of the area surrounding Dwelling Mounds Nos. 16, 17 and 19, which, it is reported in *The Times* of September 13, has now reached the southern half of the floors of the circular dwellings, has shown that there are at least two floors, or layers of clay, separated by a quantity of ash, black earth and refuse deposited during the occupation. The peat in this part of the village is so firm that the usual timber foundations for the support of the clay floors appear to have been unnecessary. In the area surrounding the dwellings the refuse from the huts is found to contain a considerable amount of ornamented pottery (Iron Age "B") and evidence of weaving in the form of loom weights, spindle whorls and bobbins. Portions of bone needles also have been found. In the occupational refuse between the clay floors, the proportion of bones and pottery sherds found to the area at present examined is unusually high. The bones are mostly of lamb and young oxen, but there are also the remains of a small horse, pig and dog, a few bones of red and roe deer and also of birds. Here there is further evidence of weaving—spindle whorls of baked clay, stone and tin, bobbins, etc., as well as a highly polished bone needle and two bone pins with mouldings and long slots of a type unusual in western Britain. Objects of iron are not plentiful, but include a butcher's knife with convex edge. In bronze are a couple of fibulae, an openwork harness ornament, and a hinge-plate with rivet holes. The ornaments include shale bracelets, and among the beads is one of blue, strung on a bronze wire.

Recent Earthquake in Sussex

SHORTLY after 1 a.m. on September 8, an earthquake of intensity 5 or more (according to the Rossi-Forel scale) was felt in the west of Sussex, especially at Horsham and the neighbouring village of Warnham. The earthquake is of some interest owing to its connexion with the series of shocks that have occurred for nearly three centuries in the district around Chichester, the first known to us being that of the year 1553. A little more than a

century ago, between September 1833 and August 1835, there was a series of eight earthquakes in the district, which were studied by a small committee, the first ever instituted for the study of British earthquakes. One of the most important of these earthquakes was that of January 23, 1834. It was of about the same intensity as the recent shock. Its centre lay 4 miles west-north-west of Chichester, and the longer axis of its disturbed area of 780 sq. miles, if produced, passes through Horsham. Readers who are willing to aid in the investigation of the new earthquake should send their accounts to Dr. A. T. Dollar, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Mechanization in the Modern World

AMONG the matters handled at the meeting of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation at Paris on July 12-17 was the inquiry into mechanization in the modern world. The plan of this inquiry has been approved by the Committee and preparations are now in hand by the Institute. National lists of organizations concerned with social sciences are also being collected by the Institute, and lists have already been received from the United States, France, Japan, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Norway. The inquiries on unemployment among intellectual workers are being pursued and the establishment of an advisory committee including representatives of the national bureaux and international organizations concerned has been authorized. The Institute has also collected most of the bilateral intellectual agreements in a volume which will shortly be published. The International Committee on Intellectual Rights has been concerned with preparations for the revision of the Berne Convention and for the Universal Conference on authors' rights, and a meeting of experts is being held to formulate final proposals for two conferences at Brussels on these subjects. The Advisory Committee of Intellectual Workers of the International Labour Office, however, pronounced in favour of keeping the question of the moral rights of salaried artists in the applied arts on its agenda.

The S.S. *Orcades*; the Latest Orient Liner

LAST month the Orient liner *Orcades* started on her maiden voyage. According to an article in the *Electrical Review* of August 27, it is claimed that she is the first British ship on the Suez route to have a public sitting-room supplied with conditioned air. Conditioned air is supplied to the public rooms and to several of the cabins. It is not sufficient for comfort to have only ventilation and correct temperature; the humidity must also be controlled within fairly narrow limits. In the tropics, the atmosphere is frequently uncomfortably damp. To reduce the temperature without extracting moisture from the air raises the relative humidity and may make the conditions more uncomfortable. When the climate is colder, air after warming sometimes becomes unpleasantly dry. Hence although air conditioning as it is managed at present is expensive, it may add greatly to the comfort and well-being of the passengers. The new vessel—an eight decker—has been built by