

future construction of scientific instruments. They are being marketed by International Technical Developments, Ltd., Thames House, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

The Wettest Place in the British Isles

DR. J. GLASSPOOLE, in an article entitled "The Wettest Place in the British Isles", which appears in the *Meteorological Magazine* of July, seeks to end the false idea so commonly held that Seathwaite, in Borrowdale, is the wettest place in Great Britain. He points out that there are several small areas nearly twice as wet as Seathwaite, and suggests that the common error has lasted so long because meteorological literature has not provided definite figures to disprove it. This lack of precise information has been due to the lack of rain gauges near the summits of the highest mountains in the four wettest areas over which the average annual rainfall exceeds 150 inches—areas in Snowdonia, the English Lake District, on Ben Nevis, and at the head of the River Garry in the western highlands of Scotland. Dr. Glasspoole considers that in the light of records now available and a study of the relationship between average rainfall and the configuration of the land, estimates can be made of the maximum rainfall in each of the four areas. In Snowdonia we have Glaslyn, at 2,500 feet, with 198 inches, which is probably a little less than the figure for the summit, only about 500 yards away. In the Lake District it is thought that 185 inches is not exceeded in the wettest area, which includes Scafell and Scafell Pikes, while Ben Nevis, in spite of its greater elevation, is more isolated and in consequence offers less obstruction to the moisture-bearing winds, and its summit has a rainfall estimated at only about 165 inches. At the head of the River Garry, however, the fall on Sgurr na Ciche is thought to be comparable with that of the summit of Snowdon over a small area, namely, about 200 inches, compared with the 129 inches of Seathwaite Farm, which last is not even the wettest habitation in Great Britain.

Fortified Hill-top Site in Sussex

A FORTIFIED hill-top site on Mount Caburn, one mile north of Glynde, near Lewes, has been partially excavated by Dr. A. E. Wilson of Brighton Grammar School with the assistance of Dr. E. Cecil Curwen. Since July, it is reported in *The Times* of September 14, portions of the outer and inner ramparts and a length of Iron Age road, with three gateways, have been uncovered. Of the gateways, one on the north side of the town, where the slope is comparatively easy, is of considerable size and is provided with re-entrant ramparts on either side for purposes of defence. A number of sling stones were found. The steep slope of the south side was defended by ramparts and a deep ditch. There are indications in the ceramic evidence that the site was first occupied about 500 B.C., and was fortified about two hundred years later. Stratification revealed by trenching suggests two periods of reconstruction, one about 50 B.C., when the main gate was moved a few feet forward, and a second about one hundred years

later, when a second gate, forming a sort of barbican, was added. Piles of ash near this gate may be, it is conjectured, either a relic of the process of hardening the ends of oak stakes to be driven into the ground, or evidence that the town was destroyed by fire. Flint kerbs mark the edges of the Iron Age roadway, of which the surface is reinforced by flints at a distance of four feet six inches apart, indicating that the gauge of the prehistoric cart was approximately the same as that of the modern cart. One of the ramparts shows what appears to be an early attempt to mix a concrete, powdered chalk apparently being mixed with water and rubble. A grant of £20 made by the Sussex Archaeological Society has made it possible to continue the work of excavation until the end of October.

Prehistoric Finds at Glasgow

EVIDENCE, it is claimed, indicating the site of a wooden circle, or temple, the largest of its kind yet known, has been found at Knappers, on the Dumtocher Boulevard, Glasgow. The site has been under investigation for some weeks by Mr. Ludovic McLellan Mann and Capt. Robert Bush Black, the proprietor of the land. The circle, it is reported in *The Times* of September 15, has a radius of 86 ft., the ground plan being revealed by the socket-holes which held the wooden posts and showing a symmetrical arrangement, "involving circles, ellipses and a large number of serpentine figures". A cemetery adjoins the circle containing fifty-three burials, both cremated and inhumed, with grave furniture and stone settings, many of which are said to be of an unusual nature. The associated funerary vessels fall into four classes and indicate both stone and bronze age datings. For the further exploration of the site financial assistance is required. Should this be adequate the site will be preserved and the monument reconstructed. Donations should be addressed to Mr. J. Eric Fergusson, 166 Buchanan Street, Glasgow.

Educational Films

FROM the British Film Institute we have received three lists, intended for the use of teachers, of about a thousand 16 mm. films: "Geography Teaching and Travel" (about 600), "Science" (400) and "History" (30). Against the title of each is shown its length, whether silent or sound, reference to report, if any, in the Institute's monthly film bulletin, and name and address of distributor. A large majority of the films are silent. Among the sound films are thirty "road-shows" obtainable through Sound-Services, Ltd., which provides a complete projection service in combination with the hire of films. The other sources of supply are very various: camera makers (Kodak, etc.), trade publicity organizations (Australian and Canadian), railway and other travel agencies (L.M.S., Scottish, German, Dutch), firms specializing in educational films such as British Instructional Films, Ltd., Educational Films Bureau, Educational and General Services, Ltd., Gaumont-British Equipment, Ltd., Visual Education, Ltd., and Dance-Kaufmann Technical Films; also the Empire Film Library,

G.P.O. Film Library and the National Film Library of the British Film Institute. Of the science films more than half are classified as zoology; others as physics and meteorology (72), botany (40), mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, physiology and applied science. The prices, exclusive of postage, are: geography, 6d.; science, 4d.; history, nil. The Institute also issues lists of films dealing with agriculture and industry and catalogues of British medical films. The lists should prove useful to teachers, especially those who do not have access to the National Encyclopaedia of Educational Films. The Institute co-operated with the Educational Hand-work Association in organizing a Film School, held in the University of London Institute of Education on July 26–August 6, at which there were lectures on the use of the film in school, film making for teachers, technique and manipulation, etc.

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

THE Carnegie United Kingdom Trust's annual reports are always worth reading, not only for the intrinsic interest of the Trust's achievements but also as revealing the latest developments of the administrative policies gradually evolved by the trustees. Co-operation with other trusts and relation to Government services are two aspects of the Trust administration that tend to call increasingly for careful study, owing to recent creations of other and comparable trusts and the ever-increasing liberality of the statutory services, notably since the inauguration of the Government's national health and youth programme. In this connexion, the report for 1936 notes that the Trust's playing fields policy, which has been completely successful, has now been discontinued, the future fulfilment of its objects having been sufficiently secured. Of the various land-settlement schemes which the Trust has been helping to finance, very encouraging accounts are given. "One of the most striking features of the new full-time holdings is the brightness of spirits of the whole community", although most of the men (about 110) had been unemployed for several years. Part-time subsistence holdings (about 1,000 in all) have been an immediate success in nearly every district where they have been established. Of the village halls the Trust has helped to finance, the report says their existence "has given new life to the community. Other recipients of the Trust's help during the year were: young farmers' clubs, the National Council of Social Service, new estates' community centres, amateur music societies, conductors' schools, adult education (inquiry into social and educational needs of the 18 + age-group), museums and libraries.

University or Polytechnic

In the current issue of *Queen's Quarterly*, a Canadian review, "The Higher Learning" is discussed by Dr. R. C. Wallace, formerly president of the University of Alberta and now principal of Queen's University, Ontario. He refers to a recent assessment by R. M. Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, of "The Higher Learning in America" (Yale

University Press) which confirms Abraham Flexner's estimate of the modern university. Admitting that there is a tendency for the university to become a mere congeries of professional schools deserving rather the name of polytechnic, Dr. Wallace rejects the suggested remedy—the severance of professional schools from the university and the restriction of the university's field to the fundamental sciences and mental discipline, such as metaphysics. He argues that the aim of liberalizing university education may be realized by invigorating and revitalizing the arts school, establishing a system of organic connexions and interchange of thought between it and other parts of the university so that its influence may permeate them all, and selecting for key positions in the professional schools persons of wide sympathies and philosophic outlook capable of using professional courses as instruments of mental culture as well as of vocational training. So confident is he of the potential liberalizing influence of the arts school that he declares its actual impotence to be the gravest fault of the existing university system.

Economic Position and Outlook in Germany

AN admirable review of the economic outlook of Germany, contributed by Alwyn Parker to *Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Monthly Review* of July, deserves attention not only for its sympathetic but dispassionate analysis of the present economic situation in Germany but also for its discerning attempt to understand and interpret the motives and aims of the German system. It is pointed out that the serious cleavage of outlook between the Anglo-Saxon and the German owing to the clash of strong and irreconcilable historical traditions need not be incompatible with broad and real community of aim, sentiment and policy abroad. The author traces the factors which have rendered Germany a peculiarly receptive and fertile soil for the idea of self-sufficiency. Scientific workers will be interested in his critical review of the development of synthetic processes in Germany, notably his assessment of the petrol and synthetic rubber position, as well as in his discussion of the raw materials situation. In regard to rubber, he ventures the opinion that the large-scale substitution of a costly State-subsidized synthetic product for a cheap imported material must cause some abrasion of Germany's capital resources. The greatest interest of this survey lies not in its technical details but in its attempt to understand the German mind, its plea for fair-mindedness and its attempt to forecast the lines of understanding. The author indicates certain steps that the German Government could well take of itself, but while he obviously is unimpressed with Germany's legal or economic case for the return of her colonies, he emphasizes the value of some moderate colonial settlement and the opportunity for the best qualities of philosophic statesmanship and vision. This plea for impartial investigation and goodwill should not be overlooked by any who are concerned with re-establishing an international order in which Anglo-German friendship must find its place.