

News and Views

The Globular Corona

THE sensational and distorted press comments on the coronal photographs secured from the stratosphere at the total eclipse of the sun last June, to which reference was made in NATURE of August 21, p. 310, have now been followed by more reasoned statements about the photographs. They amount to this: the photographs show more clearly to the eye what the measurements of von Klüber (*Z. f. Astrophysik*, 3, 159; 1931) and others have already proved, namely, that the successive isophotes of the corona round the sun are nearly circular. Graff, Bergstrand and Ludendorff were early workers in the same field of study and they have shown the differences in the behaviour during the solar cycle of this more regular corona and the superposed streamers. That some essential difference exists in the nature of the two main constituents of the corona was shown by the difference in the polarization between the inner corona and the streamers noted by Newall so long ago as 1905 and referred to again in a letter by K. G. Zakharin which appears in this issue of NATURE (p. 586).

The Storstrøm Bridge

A SHORT history and description of the Storstrøm bridge connecting the Danish islands Falster and Masnedo, which was opened by King Christian X on September 26, appears in *The Times* of September 25. Masnedo was linked up with Zealand by the Masnedesund Bridge constructed in an earlier section of the bridge building programme initiated in 1933. The Storstrøm Bridge, which crosses an arm of the Great Belt, curving in a wide sweep of more than two miles, has been built for the Danish State Railways by the British firm, Messrs. Dorman Long and Co., Ltd., and completed seven weeks before the scheduled date. In its construction, the new 'chromador' steel, which has improved corrosion-resisting properties, has been used. The bridge has three navigable spans, the centre one 430 ft. in length and with about 80 ft. head-room, and forty-six shorter spans in the approaches. Tidal conditions, pack-ice and sea-scour were provided for by new and ingenious methods adopted in the building of the concrete and granite piers and in the erection of the steel girders. The bridge is described as being of a slender appearance but having a magnificence which can best be appreciated when the aluminium coloured steel is viewed in the morning sunshine. It provides a carriage way, a foot and cycle track, and a single line of railway on which trains can pass at a speed of 50 miles per hour. It completes the railway link between the Continent and Scandinavia for, by its opening, trains or cars can now run, via Warnemunde train-ferry, from Hook of Holland, Paris and Berlin, direct to Copenhagen, whence they can proceed by another train-ferry to Malmø, so that the Danish route now

compares favourably with that via Trelleborg-Sassnitz. It has the additional importance that it makes possible the extended use of modern streamlined 'lightning' trains in consequence of the longer journeys now undertaken.

Bimillenary of the Emperor Augustus

ON September 23, Signor Mussolini inaugurated the celebration of the bimillenary of the Emperor Augustus Cæsar, who was born on September 23 in the year B.C. 63, by declaring open the "Augustan Exhibition of Romanism". Great Britain was represented by delegates from the British Museum, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Societies for the Promotion of Hellenic and Roman Studies, and the University of London. The assistance which had been given by Great Britain in the preparation for the exhibition was generously recognized by Prof. G. Quirino Giglioli, who has been responsible for its organization—the work of five years. Nor does this long period of preparation seem excessive, when the vastness of the field covered by the exhibition is taken into consideration. Not only do they illustrate every side of life and culture of the city of Rome itself as the centre of the Empire, but they also include reproductions of the most remarkable monuments Rome has left in other parts of the ancient world. Further, they cover the religions, the arts and the material culture of the many and varied peoples who came under the sway of Rome, as well as trace in a special section the rise and growth of Christianity from the birth of Christ down to the Edict of Constantine. In this aspect the exhibition has a double significance for the archaeologist and the historian. On one side it emphasizes an internal mobility of peoples and cultures, which at a momentous phase in the history of civilization brought about such an interchange of beliefs and ideas as that, for example, which left for the contemplation of later generations a characteristic emblem of the eastern Mithraic cult in north Britain below the Roman Wall. At the same time, from the other side, it demonstrates the solidarity of the Empire, as against the rest of the ancient world, which has set its seal on European peoples, the heirs of imperial culture, no less effectually than the more familiar contrast of East and West.

Racial History in the Arctic

DR. ALĚS HRDLIČKA, of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., on his recent return from his ninth expedition of anthropological investigation in the arctic regions of North-West America, has issued through the Smithsonian Institution a preliminary report on the results of his season's work in the Aleutian Islands, in which he discusses the character and distribution of early racial types in the Far North. The investigations and excavations carried out by