

Dr. Hrdlička in 1936 and 1937 have been directed more particularly to the study of the problem whether racial migration from Asia, in addition to the Bering Sea route, may have made use of the more southerly passage by the Aleutian Islands—a suggestion which on a general line of argument would appear to have much to support it, but for which until recently positive evidence has been regarded as inadequate. In the expedition of 1936, it may be remembered, evidence was obtained which was held to support Dr. Hrdlička's view. Skeletal material and a large quantity of archaeological material accruing from the expedition's excavations in 1937, and now awaiting further detailed examination in Washington, Dr. Hrdlička holds, confirm his previously formulated theories, and afford him a basis for the racial classification to which reference is made above. "The finds," he states, "make more probable than ever the hypothesis of a 'race nursery' in the Far North for the aboriginal population of the New World."

BRIEFLY, Dr. Hrdlička's preliminary conclusions are that the present-day Aleutians, a broad-headed people, who do not fall precisely into either an Indian or an Eskimo classification, were preceded by an oblong-headed race, who had a much longer occupancy. This race he regards as the same as that which he discovered in the deepest parts of his excavations on Kodiak Island in 1931-35; while a similar type has been found in the lower layers of a mound at the mouth of the Frazer River, British Columbia. There are indications that this stock may have spread so far south as California. The Aleuts cannot be regarded as descendants of this people, and may, in fact, represent a backward migration from Alaska towards Asia. Dr. Hrdlička is now prepared to recognize in the North-West, not one or two racial types, as previously held, but five distinct, though basically related strains, as follows: (1) the long- and high-headed Eskimo of the Seward Peninsula, Barrow, and eastward along the arctic coast to Labrador and Greenland; (2) the broad-headed and medium-vaulted Eskimo of the Bering Sea coast and along the interior rivers from the Yukon southward; (3) the Aleuts with broad heads and low-vaulted skulls; (4) the Alaskan Indians; (5) the oblong-headed pre-Aleuts, whose remains were found by the expedition in the exploration of the past season. The archaeological finds included a new stone industry belonging to this people.

#### "Minnesota Man"

FURTHER investigations by Prof. A. E. Jenks in the northern lake area of Minnesota, from which were obtained the skeletal remains described elsewhere in this issue of NATURE (see p. 596) have brought to light evidence of what would appear to be an extensive camping ground of early man. From a kitchen midden buried some three feet under a bog of grasses and marsh weeds in Itaska State Park, Prof. Jenks has excavated some two thousand knife-marked bones, with knives of stone and other implements of both stone and bone. The bone bed varies in

thickness up to about four feet five inches. Associated with the bones of bear, elk, caribou and other big game animals in the kitchen refuse are the remains of an extinct form of bison (*Bison occidentalis*), confirming the early character of the site and the early date of its occupation by man. Prof. Jenks states in *Science* of September 10 that of five stone artefacts recovered from the bone bed, three are flake implements with retouch, while two are chopping tools, chipped to rough parallel faces, and retouched on the cutting edges.

#### Roman Jerusalem

THE discovery of an interesting and important relic of the Roman occupation of Jerusalem is reported. The Department of Antiquities, it is stated by the correspondent of *The Times* in the issue of September 28, while conducting excavations in connexion with the plan of the municipality for clearing away buildings from the Damascus Gate, has brought to light a Roman moulded plinth ten feet high, of which the top was found at a depth of thirteen feet below the surface. The plinth consists of massive blocks of stone, which, it is said, recall the finest work of the Roman period. The site has been identified provisionally with the city gate beside the "Women's Towers", mentioned by Josephus. It is hoped that excavation will be carried further in the expectation that it will throw light on the much-discussed problem of the Third Wall of Jerusalem.

#### Brood Diseases of Bees Investigations

EARLIER in the present year an appeal was made to beekeepers and beekeeping associations to support financially the continuation of the research on brood diseases of bees at Rothamsted Experimental Station. This work had been carried on for three years by Dr. Tarr with funds half of which were provided by the Government and half by the British Beekeepers Associations. The results of the first three years' work were so promising that it was unanimously decided by the Bee Research Advisory Committee at Rothamsted to continue for a further period of three years if possible. The estimated cost is £550 per annum, of which the Agricultural Research Council has promised £300, if £250 per annum can be raised from other sources. As the result of the appeal a sum of £226 has been received for the current year, which leaves a balance of only £34 to be made up. For the two following years, there is only at present a guaranteed fund of £103 per annum.

THE work carried out up to the present has already cleared up many difficult points. Dr. Tarr has shown that European and American foul brood are two distinct diseases caused by different organisms. He has confirmed that American foul brood is due to a bacterium, *Bacillus larvæ*, and that its incidence is independent of the strength of the colony. European foul brood, on the other hand, is a disease of weak stocks and is probably caused by *Bacillus pluton*, in association with other organisms. He has also shown that a third condition known as 'addled brood' is