

the Pilgrim Trust, and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. An enterprise of this nature which will mean at one and the same time the safeguarding of land for the development of scientific research and the preservation of a green belt in an area rapidly becoming industrialized, should have a double appeal: to those who think well of East Malling as a research centre, and to those also who approve of keeping part at least of the 'Garden of England' unspoilt. Such a project as the purchase and maintenance of Bradbourne must necessarily entail a heavy strain on the Station, and it may be several years before it is free from financial anxiety. Hence any contributions towards paying off the debt for the purchase and restoration will be welcomed by the Director, East Malling Research Station, Near Maidstone, Kent.

B.M.A. Committee on Mental Health

THE ever-recurring problems of sickness both in industry and in the general population which cannot be satisfactorily diagnosed or relieved by reference to the bodily symptoms alone, has led to a slowly developing interest into the mental aspect of disease. More than ten years ago, a report of the Industrial Health Research Board gave experimental evidence that led to the view that telegraphists' cramp was a psycho-neurotic manifestation. Studies of industrial sickness-absence show that much inefficiency, lost time and unhappiness are related to disorders of the type vaguely labelled nervous breakdown. Also investigations into industrial failures show that a large proportion are people whose disabilities are of a mental or emotional nature. It is therefore opportune that a special committee of the British Medical Association should be appointed to study the problem of mental health in general. The committee is to make a thorough study of all the available statistics and will seek to compare the importance of mental illness with other conditions already recognized by the State as requiring action. It will consider the part which the general practitioner, hospitals, clinics under the Mental Treatment Act, child guidance and other clinics, can play in the prevention of such illness, and study the degree of success attainable by the present available methods of treatment. A very important part of the committee's work will be to consider the part allotted to psychological medicine in medical training. The members of the committee are as follows: Sir Robert Johnston (president), Sir Kaye le Fleming (chairman of council), Mr. H. Guy Dain (chairman of representative body), Mr. N. Bishop Harman (treasurer), Sir Henry Brackenbury, Dr. J. A. Brown, Dr. Millais Culpin, Dr. R. G. Gordon, Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, Dr. Mary C. Luff, Dr. E. Mapother, Dr. Doris M. Odlum, Dr. A. A. W. Petrie, Dr. J. R. Rees, Dr. Benjamin Reid, Dr. D. Stewart, and Dr. R. M. Stewart.

Bureau of Human Heredity

AN appeal for funds on behalf of the Bureau of Human Heredity, which appears in *The Times* of June 7, gives some slight indication of the value of

the work which has been carried out by this organization with the limited resources at its disposal and in the brief period since its foundation. The function of the Bureau is to centralize in one organization as a world clearing-house the information already accurately ascertained on the inborn constitutional factors in man, and to distribute it freely wherever it is required. In less than eighteen months the Bureau has accumulated data on the inheritance of more than six hundred physical and mental differences. As a result of a financial appeal in May 1936, the Bureau secured sufficient support to enable it to carry on from day to day, while a grant for one year was made by a scientific worker. The present appeal is headed by Lord Dawson of Penn, with the support of Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Sir Richard Gregory and others. In their view, the facts warrant an appeal to the public for a sum of £25,000, an amount which is not considered excessive in view of the importance of the work to be carried on. It would enable the activities of the Bureau to be placed on a permanent basis. In justification, the signatories to the appeal point out that attempts to improve the lot of the individual must remain largely ineffective so long as the data which reveal his inborn nature remain obscure. When the Bureau has been placed in a position to carry out its functions normally in accordance with the intentions of its promoters, it will be possible for any medical man to obtain in English the latest information from any country relating to, for example, the resistance or non-resistance of certain types to common infections, or occupational disease. Research workers themselves are well aware that the organization of knowledge, such as that upon which the Bureau is engaged, is little less important for scientific progress than research itself. Without it there is risk that much valuable work may suffer oblivion. The appeal is issued from the Bureau of Human Heredity, 115 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

Haslemere Educational Museum

THE Haslemere Educational Museum will celebrate, on June 29, the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. The speakers on the occasion will be Earl Winterton and Dr. John Ramsbottom. This museum was founded in 1888 by Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.S., at a time when the majority of the smaller museums were stagnant and uninspiring because they lacked teachers. Hutchinson was a great teacher, and through his teaching the museum at his country house at Inval, about a mile from Haslemere, quickly made its influence felt. There he arranged for the first time the space-for time schedules of geology and human history which are still a special feature of the museum, and these schedules were largely used in his lectures to friends and to members of the Haslemere Natural History Society. In less than ten years the Museum had completely outgrown itself, and Hutchinson then built a much more commodious one in Haslemere on the hillside to the south-east of the town, and there continued to lecture at weekends in the summer months.

IN 1897, Mr. E. W. Swanton became curator of the Museum and still holds that office. The founder died in 1913; no provision had been made for its future, and it was taken over by a committee with Sir Archibald Geikie as chairman. From that time to the present, the necessary funds to allow the work to continue have been subscribed year by year chiefly by local residents. As its activities steadily increased, it became more and more desirable that the Museum should be moved to a central position. In 1925 the committee purchased an old house with beautiful grounds in Haslemere High Street; new galleries for the adequate display of the space-for-time schedules were added and the collections removed there in 1926. Afterwards a new gallery was added to contain a valuable gift of British birds. Through grants from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the work has been extended to include a regional and ecological survey of the district. The value of the Museum as a teaching centre is widely known. Every autumn mycology students from the University of Oxford make it their headquarters. A course in field biology held at Whitsun attracted students from a wide area.

Hittites in Northern Syria

ONCE more Sir Leonard Woolley's archaeological investigations in the East have produced unanticipated results. In his dispatch from Atchana in Northern Syria (*The Times*, June 13), which covers the work of his expedition during the first half of the current season, he records that two hundred inscribed tablets have been found, which reveal for the first time the existence of a strongly established and highly organized Hittite power in Northern Syria at about 1600 B.C., at least two centuries before the great expansion of the Hittite Empire, centring on Hattusas (Boghaz Keui) beyond the Taurus, in what is now Anatolia, with which scholars were previously familiar from excavation and inscribed records. These archives are part of the official documents removed from the Hittite palace, of which a preliminary examination was made at the close of last year's excavations, and now shown to have been destroyed by fire, presumably accidental, as the contents of the building had been removed. The most striking feature of the building, in the account given by Sir Leonard, is the skilled arrangement and the elaborate character of the accommodation. The ruins, still standing to more than a man's height, cover more than 22,000 square feet. Access to the building is from an open courtyard and through a great entry into an entrance hall, from which doorways right and left give admission to the business and residential quarters of the palace respectively. These were virtually separate buildings without inter-communication, and the difference in their character and arrangement indicate their entirely different purposes. In the residential quarter, intended, Sir Leonard thinks, for important members of the palace personnel—the royal family being accommodated above, and the domestic staff, equipment and stores being housed in the courtyard in front of the entry—the accommodation consisted of suites, each of which contained a good-sized bathroom and lavatory. The

whole arrangement and content of the palace is, as Sir Leonard remarks, eloquent of a strong and stable government; while the pottery, ivory and gold work bear witness to relations with Cyprus, Crete, Phœnicia and the Greek mainland, as well as with Egypt and Mesopotamia.

The Unity Schools

THE fifteenth Unity School was held at Jordans Hostel in Bucks, on May 20–23. The general subject was the need and the relation of philosophy to the social sciences, and an introductory address on that topic was given by Prof. Morris Ginsberg, on the evening of May 20. On May 21, Mr. F. S. Marvin introduced the central subject of "What we mean by Social Justice", and the liveliness of the discussion showed clearly how deeply the current thinking on these questions goes, and how much it needs clarification and, so far as possible, harmonization. Dr. C. H. Desch introduced the question of the comparison of our approach to truth in physical and social science, and Prof. Herbert Dingle gave a parallel statement. In particular the question was raised, and viewed from several angles, of whether it is possible in social science properly to speak of a scientific experiment. On May 22, Prof. J. H. Muirhead gave a carefully prepared and moving discourse on the place of the State in relation to right and justice, with the title, "State Law and Individual Morality". The programme, as originally drawn up, was concluded on the Sunday evening by a historical review by Dr. A. J. Carlyle of the various larger subjects which had occurred in the earlier debates—justice, law, sovereignty and the freedom and equality of men—mainly as they are treated in the codes and writings of Greeks, Roman jurists and medieval thinkers. In view of the great success and obvious usefulness of such gatherings, the possibility of extending them to a larger number of people, more frequent occasions and a still wider expanse of subjects is being considered. Further information on the Unity Schools can be obtained from Mr. F. S. Marvin, Pantiles, Coneydale, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Correct Street Lighting

THE General Electric Co. Ltd. has installed in its street-lighting showrooms at Magnet House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, a model demonstrating many of the problems that arise in street lighting and how they have been effectively solved by the methods recommended in the final report on street lighting issued by the Ministry of Transport. The model measures 5 ft. long by 2 ft. wide, the lighting columns and roads being to a scale of 1 in 380. Running the whole length of the model is a main arterial road lighted by columns which in practice would provide a mounting height to light source of 25 ft. for a main road (Group A). The thoroughfare is lighted by a staggered arrangement of units not more than 150 ft. apart. In every third position an auxiliary unit is centrally suspended, so that there can be adequate lighting down and across what would otherwise be a dark central section of the road. After a roundabout,