

recorded in southern Britain. The excavations were described before the Society of Antiquaries of London by Sir Cyril Fox on March 31. The Simondston Cairn is of the normal highland Early Bronze Age type and contains burials of two adults and a child, dating from about 1600 B.C. In the southern rim of the cairn were five cremation burials of about a generation later. It was in one of these that the traces of coal were identified. The nearest outcrop of coal is about a mile and a half away. The second cairn, Pond Cairn, lies half a mile away from Simondston and is on a lower level. It is of a very unusual type both as regards its structure and the ritual acts involved in the construction. Near the centre was a rock-cut pit, probably dedicatory, which was filled with stones and contained the scattered burnt bones of a child. The primary burial was an urn of about 1300 B.C. which was covered with a heap of stones and a vertical-sided turf stack. A basin with a projection, phallic in plan, and lined with charcoal, fronted the urn. Around the turf stack was a continuous cairn ring, sixty feet in diameter, with an inner wall face and outer kerb. The space between the ring and the stack was scattered over with charcoal, and had been trodden hard, presumably in some ceremonial movement. Later the inner face of the ring was broken and the pit, to which reference is made above, was dug. It was covered with a pile of stones, linking the ring with the stack. The Pond Cairn is comparable with examples in Devon. With the secondary deposits at Simondston it probably represents an intrusion across the Severn Sea into the Glamorgan plain.

#### Roman Dorchester

RESUMED excavation on behalf of the Dorset Archaeological Society on the site at Colliton Park, Dorchester, which has been purchased by the County Council for the erection of a shire hall, has already produced several discoveries (*The Times*, March 3). It will be remembered that last year, when excavation began, a large Roman town house was discovered belonging to the Roman city of Durnovaria which underlies the modern town. This has been completely excavated and is to be preserved intact by the County Council. Trial trenches have now revealed that four important Roman buildings underlie the area upon which the shire hall is to be erected. These it is hoped to examine. A well-made path of cobble flints leading to the door of the house has been brought to light. It overlies an earlier wooden cookhouse, furnished with an oven. A large pit was also found. This was circular in plan and lined with blocks of stone. It is fourteen feet in diameter and sixteen feet deep. A passage to the west leads to the Roman town wall. Excavations will be continued for a further period of at least three months.

#### Jungfrauoch Research Party

At the end of this month Mr. G. Seligman, author of "Snow Structure and Ski Fields", will take a party of scientific workers to the Jungfrauoch Research Institute in Switzerland to undertake scientific

research work on glaciers. This will be the first British expedition ever to spend its whole time studying glaciological problems, and it will form a continuation of Mr. Seligman's previous researches on the nature of snow. The party will spend five months at the Institute, at a height of more than 11,000 feet, and will consist of: Mr. T. P. Hughes, of the Physical-Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge—physicist; Mr. M. F. Perutz, of the Crystallographic Laboratory, Cambridge—crystallographer; Mr. A. E. Benfield, of the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics, Cambridge, and Mr. E. A. Ferguson, of the Department of Geography, Cambridge—assistants. The chief problem to be investigated will be the transition of firn into glacier ice, but other problems, particularly those which may have some bearing on the main question, will be investigated, notably the movement of glaciers, the formation of ice-bands and the connexion, if any, between those in the névé regions and those near the snout of the glacier. In addition, Mr. Hughes will carry out certain experiments on the friction of solid bodies on ice, in connexion with his work at the Physical-Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge. Mr. Seligman has been granted a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for the purpose of this research, and the expedition is also supported by the Royal Geographical Society, the Ski Club of Great Britain and the Alpine Ski Club.

#### Changing Conceptions of Education

At a public meeting of the Derbyshire County Association of the National Union of Teachers on March 26, Mr. A. E. Henshall, education secretary of the Union, spoke on present-day teachers' aims and attitudes as contrasted with those of their predecessors. The attitudes established by the notorious payment-by-results system persisted long after its abolition, but to-day there is fairly general acceptance of the view that the teacher is concerned before everything else with the welfare of the individual child, considered as a person destined in due course to contribute to the welfare of the community as a citizen of a democratic State. It follows, at least in theory, that teachers of children in all stages in every kind of school—infants, junior, senior, central, secondary—are united in a single task and owe it to themselves and their charges that they should co-operate as fellow workers in a unitary service. To promote such co-operation by providing convenient occasions for getting together and comparing notes is an important function of the local associations of the National Union. Mr. Henshall stressed the pioneer role of the new senior schools and warned their teachers against sacrificing their comparative freedom in a misguided effort to rival the secondary schools. With equal emphasis he insisted on the importance of the junior schools, the teachers of which should be regarded as having a status not inferior to that of senior school teachers.

#### Social Services of the League of Nations

In an article entitled "The Non-Political Value of the League" contributed to the *Quarterly Review* for