

In the present instance, there is added its bearing on the site of Skara Brae, the similar village discovered and excavated some ten years ago, of which the significance for our knowledge of stone age culture and more of life was such that Prof. V. Gordon Childe at the time described it as a veritable Knossos of the north. The new site defines more nearly the dating of the culture, left somewhat indeterminate, at Skara Brae. The discovery of a portion of a beaker, in association with objects of the Skara Brae type, fixes the period of occupation at somewhere about the transition from stone to bronze in Great Britain, that is at about 1500 B.C. Further the Rinyo village, being apparently complete, should supply details which at Skara Brae had been swept away by the encroachments of the sea on the sand dunes. The Rinyo settlement has been excavated by Mr. Walter W. Grant, with whom has been associated Prof. Gordon Childe. Below the floor in which the beaker fragment was discovered, traces of earlier occupation have been found. These are in the form of commodious stone houses, provided with recesses for beds, built dressers and even a system of drainage. In addition to open hearths, some of the houses have clay ovens, a novel feature. It is anticipated that eventually excavation will give a complete picture of a whole stone age settlement, unique in Britain, and indeed in western Europe, and at the same time throw a new light on the social organization and economy of a neolithic community.

Rhodesian National Museum

IN reference to the announcement of the proposed National Museum for Southern Rhodesia in the neighbourhood of the Zimbabwe ruins (see *NATURE*, July 9, p. 65), Mr. F. M. Collins writes to suggest the possibility of a confusion between the Victoria Falls and Fort Victoria, the township one hundred and eighty miles east of Buluwayo, near which the ruins are situated, while their distance from the Falls is by air approximately four hundred miles. 'Proximity', however, the term in the comment in these columns to which Mr. Collins takes exception, is, as he admits, relative, and as the general sense indicated was used in comparison with, for example, the distance from Cape Town, which would affect students and tourists, rather than in relation to absolute mileage.

Science and the Way to Peace

AN "Appeal to the Scientists of the World" has reached us from India. The author, Dr. Bhagavan Das of Benares, a member of the Legislative Assembly of India, refers to the imminent peril of another world war, far surpassing the last in horror and destructiveness, and the frightful strain meanwhile imposed on mankind by preparation for defence. He seeks to show that a heavy responsibility for this state of affairs rests on the learned world as a whole, partly because modern warfare owes its peculiarly devastating character to scientific research and the collaboration of men of science with the organizers of war and partly because the ideas that motivate wars are products of the speculations of philosophers

and the vulgarization and misapplication of theories invented by men of science, notably that of the ascent of man through the struggle for existence and survival of the fittest. He quotes from the records of ancient Aryan wisdom: "Science (Vidya) came to the man of wisdom, the man of knowledge and purity, and said to him: guard me as a sacred trust; give me not to the wicked and sinful, but only to the pure of heart and large of mind; so only will I be strong to nourish mankind; otherwise I will only destroy thee and thy pupils and thy people." So in our own day Alexis Carrel in "Man the Unknown" writes: "The environment which science and technology have succeeded in developing for man does not suit him because it has been constructed at random without regard for his true self." Therefore, the appeal says, it is "up to" the learned world to get together and do something about it. Peradventure where politicians have failed men of science may find a way of approach to disarmament, military and economic.

The Ontario Research Foundation

THE report of the Ontario Research Foundation for 1937 (Sessional Paper, No. 52. Pp. 35. Toronto: King's Printer) refers to an increase in the amount of research work carried out in contact and in co-operation with industrial companies, the revenue received for services rendered to industry itself having increased by thirty per cent. The Textiles Department has during the year developed a launderometer for determining the fastness of dyed goods to washing, a fadeometer for determining the fastness of coloured fabrics to light, a crock-meter for determining fastness of dyes to rubbing, and an autographic tensile strength and elongation tester for determining the strength, extensibility and yarn slippage of materials. The Engineering and Metallurgy Department continued its investigation on summer comfort standards for the Toronto district and also its study of the resistance to abrasion of iron and steel balls under the conditions existing in the grinding mills of mines. In the Department of Chemistry, the development of a laboratory for the study of problems relating to paper, printing and adhesives has been completed. Work on the transfer of pigments from aqueous pastes to an oily medium by methods which are commercially feasible has reached its final stages and in addition to the mechanical problem an emulsifying agent is required which is not detrimental to the final product. The equipment and organization of a laboratory for the study of plastics has been commenced, and a new laboratory has also been inaugurated to study problems associated with the manufacture of waxed paper and similar products. The Department of Biochemistry has continued its investigations on a combined system of tannage for sole and belting leather and on problems connected with the Matzka process for the preparation of fruit juices which are stable for prolonged periods and retain their original flavour and content of vitamins. Investigations carried out by the Department of Agriculture have