

serious we have to repel. In Africa, which at present is our gravest responsibility, the touchstone of our policy, whatever efforts may be expended in social or economic advancement, must be the opportunities afforded the native by our administrative system to train himself towards adjustment with the changed conditions which must result inevitably from the impact on tribal institutions of a system and civilization in which personal responsibility and personal liberty of thought and action, with certain recognized and admitted limitations due to the rights of others, are the corner-stone. Under the present administration of the Colonial Office, faith is implicit in indirect rule, or local government by traditional chiefs and native councils. The report records with a note of enthusiasm that while local government is regarded as a great experiment, "the year under review affords encouragement for continuing that experiment in high hope of success". The number of local administrations has been increased in several of the African colonies; but is there a subdued note of cynicism in the remark of one of them, that under its administration, extensions "tend rather towards improving the native tribunals than towards setting up native treasuries"?

#### Down House

It is just ten years ago since the British Association threw open to the public Down House, Charles Darwin's home, at Downe in Kent, which had been presented to it by Sir Buckston Browne as a memorial to be held in custody for the nation. The memorial rooms and the grounds are open without charge throughout the year except on Christmas Day, and the number of visitors during the past year is stated to have been 7,362. This figure is very close to the average annual attendance of 7,300 during the ten years since the opening, and since the village of Downe, four miles from a railway station and on an infrequent omnibus service, is probably less easily accessible than almost any other place within the radius of twenty miles from London, it cannot be felt that the number of those who make the pilgrimage to Darwin's house is unworthy of his memory. It has, in fact, always exceeded the expectations of those who are responsible for the maintenance of the house. The collection of Darwinian relics, remarkably complete from the first, is still receiving additions from time to time. The British Association, by means of an appeal to its members and others, is now acquiring the nucleus of a collection of books, magazine articles, and other studies and critiques of Darwin's views, such as appeared in large numbers especially after the publication of the "Origin of Species" in 1859. The Association will gratefully acknowledge any appropriate gifts to the collection.

#### An Oxford Expedition to Peru

THREE members of the Geology Department of the University of Oxford, Dr. J. V. Harrison (Christ Church), Mr. J. D. Weir (University College), and Mr. C. H. Kearny (Queen's College) and Mr. M. H. Donald are leaving on June 17 for Peru to study

and map the geology of a part of the Central Andes of Peru, a triangular area the apices of which are Tarma, Cerro de Pasco, and Canta, the centre being about eighty miles north-east of Lima. Besides doing the work of mapping and survey, the expedition will collect fossils and specimens of rocks from this region for the British Museum. Dr. Harrison has a wide knowledge of Peru. Mr. Weir, a Rhodes scholar from the University of Saskatoon, has served two summers with the Canadian Geological Survey and Mr. Kearny, a Rhodes scholar from Princeton, has collected archaeological material in north-western Mexico. Mr. Donald of Cumberland has previously collected for the British Museum. How much this expedition will do depends largely upon the weather it experiences. In the high altitudes where it will be, the weather in August and September is capricious and may be very stormy. The plans have been approved by the Royal Geographical Society. The expedition hopes to return to Oxford in October.

#### Accessions to the British Museum (Bloomsbury)

A SERIOUS gap in the archaeological material available for study in museum collections in Great Britain has been filled by accessions to the British Museum (Bloomsbury) reported at the meeting of the Trustees held on June 10. Representative specimens have been received of the antiquities found at Mohenjodaro in the Indus Valley during the years 1925-28 in the archaeological excavations carried out under Sir John Marshall, formerly Director of Archaeology in India. The collection consists of 247 pieces, which have been acquired by exchange from the Director General of Archaeology in India. It is of especial value to archaeologists not only on account of the fact that the Indus Valley civilization, one of the major archaeological discoveries of the decade following the Great War, was almost completely unrepresented previously in English museum collections, but also because of the extent to which it throws light on the relations between this civilization and that of Mesopotamia in the course of the third millennium B.C. The list of accessions to the Museum also included a remarkable archaic Sumerian figure of a seated mountain goat in gold, about 1½ inches long, which has been given by Mr. J. A. Spranger. It is dated approximately at about 2500 B.C. Roughly it is contemporary with, though larger than, similar objects found at Ur by Sir Leonard Woolley. From Mr. M. E. L. Mallowan's excavations in northern Syria of last year come a group of Chalcolithic pottery from the Balikh Valley and antiquities from Brak, among which are the remarkable series of amulets, seals and necklaces of beads and coloured stones, as well as the frieze from the pedestal of the statue found in a sanctuary, consisting of rows of different coloured stones or artificial material, fixed at top and bottom with gold bands and gold nails. It is dated approximately at 3000 B.C. A gold figure of a weather god of Hittite origin from Anatolia, dating from the fourteenth or thirteenth century B.C., was acquired by purchase.