

ference of the disease to other persons, animals or inanimate objects; (2) animal, plant or mineral remedies; (3) religious influences, including the invocation of special saints; (4) the healing power attributed to water in the form of wells, springs, fountains and streams; (5) the mystical power of odd numbers; (6) repellent and disgusting remedies, including coprotherapy, for the purpose of drawing out the evil spirit supposed to be the cause of the disease; (7) miscellaneous causes, such as the doctrine of signatures, constriction by rings, charms connected with death or the grave, etc. The diseases and symptoms for which the largest number of folk-lore remedies and preventive methods have been applied are whooping cough, 'ague', including not only malaria, but also as its etymology indicates, any acute fever, epilepsy and convulsions of any kind, rheumatism, consumption, eye diseases, skin diseases, especially warts, cattle diseases, headache, toothache, jaundice, hæmorrhages of any kind, and bites of snakes and scorpions. After giving numerous examples of folk-lore medicine in whooping cough, epilepsy, rheumatism and jaundice, Dr. Rolleston concluded by saying that, though many folk-lore remedies have become obsolete, some are still practised, not only by the inhabitants of remote country districts, but also by educated persons in large cities.

#### The New Deal in Education in the United States

THE Federal Government of the United States seems likely, in future, to play an increasingly important part in the education services of the States. A summary has recently been published ("The Federal Government and Education". Washington, D.C.: Superintendent of Documents. Price 10 cents) of certain findings and proposals of the President's Advisory Committee on Education relating to present conditions with special emphasis on inequalities of educational opportunity, the national interest in education and proposals for federal grants amounting in 1939-40 to 72 million dollars and increasing gradually to 202 millions in 1944-45. The Committee found that "glaring inequalities characterize educational opportunities throughout the nation" and it is argued that federal aid is the only way of adequately remedying this evil. It is pointed out that while the abilities of the States and local communities to provide education have always been unequal, recent changes in social and economic conditions have magnified this inequality and at the same time education has become increasingly important. Fundamentally the inequality is largely due to drainage of wealth, through migration and modern methods of organization of manufacture, commerce and finance, from all parts of the country into the towns and cities and particularly the great metropolitan areas. Hence such glaring contrasts as that between a farm population in the south-eastern States responsible for  $4\frac{1}{4}$  million children, with only 2 per cent of the national income, and a non-farm population in the north-east with  $8\frac{1}{2}$  million children, and 42 per cent of the national income—21 times as much income from which to educate only twice as many children.

#### The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation

IN a six-year review of the activities of the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, New York, 1930-1936, Dr. Ludwig Kast, president of the Foundation, reports that up to December 31, 1936, the Foundation made 324 grants, amounting to 806,681 dollars, to thirty-four different universities and twenty-seven other agencies for research in the United States, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands and the U.S.S.R. Special reference is made in the report to the interest of the Foundation in psychosomatic problems, including a survey of the relation of emotion to disease, to its support of investigations upon growth, development, maturation and ageing, the bearing of which upon the changing age distribution of population in the United States and the problems arising from that trend are stressed, as well as in social research concerning health and sickness and medical education. The Foundation in 1933 published the results of a review of the available data and immediate problems in human arteriosclerosis in a volume entitled "Arteriosclerosis: a Survey of the Problem", and the report emphasizes that, in view of the tendency for the age distribution of population to change towards a predominantly older group with a smaller population less than twenty years of age, the problems associated with the ageing of individual men and women are not merely medical problems but also require study by workers in other branches of science, such as economics and sociology. A chronological list of grants is included in the report.

#### Steam Boilers for Electric Power Stations

CONSIDERABLE progress has recently been made in developing the type of boiler used in electric power stations. It is now generally recognized that considerable economies can be effected by the use of larger steam-generating units, higher steam pressures and higher temperatures. The average capacity of boilers now being installed in power stations has risen to nearly 200,000 lb. of steam per hour. These work in conjunction with alternating current generators giving 30,000-50,000 kilowatts. In the *Electrical Times* of November 24 a description is given by Mr. V. Walker of a number of the latest types of boilers recently installed. Attention is also directed to the alterations made necessary when pulverized fuel is used. Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox have developed some of their boilers so as to take advantage of the economies inherent in the use of high rates of heat release per square foot of furnace now obtainable. They have designed a boiler for the Brighton Corporation so as to have a normal evaporation of 175,000 lb. per hour at 675 lb. pressure per square inch and 875° F. To overcome the difficulties of natural circulation, forced circulation has been developed. Two other types of boiler, the La Monte and the Loeffler, are also being installed in Great Britain.

#### Recent Additions to the British Museum (Bloomsbury)

AMONG the additions of archaeological interest reported at the meeting of the trustees of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) on January 14, was a