

cap and chain, and for gnomon a gold pin surmounted by a delicately chased animal head, with jewelled eyes and a ball in its mouth. This pin, when not in use, rested in a hole at the lower end of the tablet, and was in this position when the time-piece was found. On the faces of the tablet are inscribed the names of the months, abbreviated and in pairs. At the top of each of the three columns is a hole for the pin when in use, and below each hole two spots. Of these the higher in each month, when the dial hangs free, indicates noon and the lower 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. marking the hours of the monks' services. Along the edges runs the inscription: *Pax Possessori—Salus Factori*. The dial has been tested for accuracy by Dr. A. H. Smith of University College, London. The grouping of the months in pairs according to their equivalent distances from the summer solstice is based, it is to be presumed, on the table given by Bedo for measuring the shadow of a six-foot gnomon. Dr. Smith finds that owing to its small size, the dial could only be approximately accurate. It would, however, be more or less correct at noon in latitude 53° N. at the middle of certain months, or early in others, while in the far north of England it would be more or less accurate through the summer months. At 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. it would be more or less accurate in late January, mid-February, mid-March, early April, early May, late July, mid-September, early October, early November and early December.

Anglo-Saxon Ship Burial

SHIP BURIALS are of sufficient rarity, even on the Continent, for the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo, near Ipswich (*The Times*, July 26, July 31) to be regarded as a memorable and, indeed, remarkable event. This is, in fact, only the second of the kind to be found in England, a previous discovery, though of a rather less impressive character, having been made at Snape, two miles away. In the present instance, the vessel in which the interment had taken place was a rowing galley 82 ft. long. The quantity and character of the jewellery and other personal objects associated with the burial were such as to justify the assumption that a chief lay buried here. The personal relics were found collected together in the centre of the ship, and included a handsome gold buckle, clasps and fastenings of the garments, gold studs from a belt, and small plaques of gold bearing figures of human beings and animals. The sword had been laid by the side of the body; but it has almost entirely perished, with the exception of the richly ornamented gold and jewelled pommel. The deceased had also been provided with money, the remains of a purse being found beside some coins. Other articles found with the burial were iron pots and spearheads, and an object which has the appearance of a sceptre, having faces carved at either end. A metal cup may, it is thought, have contained some articles of symbolic significance. The grave is situated on the estate of Mrs. E. M. Pretty, and has been excavated by the authorities of the Ipswich Museum, under the field direction of Mr. Guy Maynard, with the co-operation of H.M. Office of Works and the British Museum.

Lightning Flashes and High Tension Mains

DURING July there were many violent thunderstorms and much damage was done to overhead electric mains and substations connected with them. The damage done to main stations was also severe. On July 19, a violent thunderstorm cut off Valley Road Power Station at Bradford from the Grid and shut down all the generating sets there. For about an hour, mills, factories, trams and trolley-buses on many routes came to a standstill; the traffic lights failed and there was no light anywhere for about an hour. A similar occurrence took place at the Brighton Power House at Southwick. In both cases the difficulties of the staff were increased as they were engaged in changing over on the Grid supply from 6.6 kilovolt to 33 kilovolt. There was a heavy storm over Cumberland and the overhead transmission was struck. This affected the supply to more than 30,000 houses in Cocker-mouth, Maryport, Aspatria and Wigton as well as part of Workington, the lights being out from 3.15 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. On July 19, at 8 p.m., the B.B.C. National Transmitter at Droitwich was struck by lightning and put out of action. The flashes striking the 700-ft. masts of the Radio Station were extremely violent. Flames shot from the cage of aerial wires slung between the masts. In some places transformers or switchgear were damaged and three fires broke out, destroying substation roofs or walls. Since thunderstorms are less frequent in Great Britain than in South Africa and other parts of the world it might be useful to study the effects of modern lightning protectors in protecting poles, steel towers, overhead mains, etc., in places where thunderstorms are frequent and violent. Also when designing new grids or extensions of old ones to get estimates of the relative costs of overhead mains and of underground mains. A decision could then be arrived at as to which is the better method of transmitting high-tension electric power.

Empire Broadcasts on Scientific Topics

THE British Broadcasting Corporation has instituted a short series of quarter-hour broadcasts to the Empire on recent advances in science. The first talk of the series was given at 11.15 p.m. on July 31 by Prof. Allan Ferguson, one of the general secretaries of the British Association. Prof. Ferguson, after giving a simple picture of the structure of the atom, and the results to be expected from atomic bombardment, described briefly the development of the cyclotron, recent experiments on nuclear disintegration, including the uranium-fission experiments, and the production of 'labelled' particles. Succeeding talks will be given by Wing-Commander Cave-Browne-Cave on mechanical engineering (August 7), by Dr. S. J. F. Philpott on psychology (August 14) and by Prof. F. A. E. Crew on biology (August 21).

League of Nations

"The League from Year to Year (1938)", which has recently been issued by the Information Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, contains the usual concise account of the year's activities in