

to Easter Island to investigate and explore systematically the antiquities of that island, and more especially the origin and meaning of the sculptured statues and the script for which the island is famous, and of which the meaning had long been sought by travellers and anthropologists. The expedition, which sailed in a small schooner-rigged yacht with auxiliary power, named the *Mana*, which Routledge had built for the purpose, was in Easter Island when the War broke out in 1914. It returned to England in 1916, after visiting a number of islands in the Pacific, including Pitcairn, from which they brought back two descendants of Young, the mutineer officer of the *Bounty*, whom they presented to His Majesty King George V in an interview in July 1916. Further research on the history of Easter Island was carried out in 1920 and 1922, when the Routledges visited and surveyed the Austral and Gambier groups and collected much valuable anthropological material bearing on distribution. The results of the earlier expedition were published in a volume "The Mystery of Easter Island" which appeared in 1919.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Sir Edward Brown, former secretary of the National Poultry Council and first president of the World's Poultry Science Association, on August 7, aged eighty-seven years.

Miss A. R. Clark, librarian at the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom at Plymouth.

Dr. Edmund Heller, director of the Fleishhacker Zoological Park, formerly director of the Milwaukee Zoological Gardens, on July 18, aged sixty-four years.

Prof. L. Lévy-Bruhl, professor of philosophy in the Sorbonne during 1899-1927, president of the Institut française d'Anthropologie during 1927-30, aged eighty-two years.

Dr. Heinrich Poll, formerly director of the Anatomical Institute, Hamburg, on June 12.

Prof. W. A. Tarr, professor of mineralogy and geology in the University of Missouri, on July 28, aged fifty-eight years.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Memorial to Sir William Perkin

It was a pleasing thought of the people of Sudbury, now part of the new borough of Wembley, and of the friends of the late Sir William H. Perkin, to commemorate his long residence there by the erection of a memorial in the form of a tiny garden of rest and a large oval oak seat. The memorial was unveiled by the eldest Miss Perkin on August 12 in the presence of the civic authorities, the church, some friends and a large number of the public. An appropriate oration on Perkin's life and work was given by Dr. C. E. Goddard. The growth of London has swept away the peaceful home and garden and fields where Perkin retired to in 1874 to devote his life to research; he became also a good citizen and much beloved in the village. The memorial stands on a corner of his land, the noisy traffic thunders past it on two sides and there is a round-about in front. But this tiny spot is a haven of refuge and peace, and those who use it for a few moments in years to come can read the tablet and muse perhaps on what kind of a man was this Perkin, founder of the dye industry. 'Scientist and citizen' might appropriately have been added, for it was as the latter, a man conspicuous for his probity and good works, that Sudbury knew him.

Ship-Burial and Treasure Trove in Suffolk

THE verdict of the jury at the coroner's inquest, which took place on Aug. 14, on the Anglo-Saxon ship-burial, or rather on the grave furniture in precious metals found therein, at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk (see NATURE of August 5, p. 239), was such as, perhaps, might well have been expected. It

would be more than difficult to argue convincingly that a royal burial, in the circumstances indicated here by the character of the relics, could have taken place with that secrecy and intention to resume possession, which have been laid down from time to time in legal pronouncement as the essential principle of 'treasure trove'. Unless the matter is carried further in the High Court, as Mr. L. H. Vulliamy, the coroner, indicated as a possibility, the Sutton Hoo treasure now becomes legally the property of Mrs. E. M. Pretty, the owner of the land upon which the burial was found by Mr. Guy Maynard of the Ipswich Museum. It may be hoped, however, that arrangements will be made in due course to ensure its display to the public and availability for study, as its historic interest demands. It would now appear, since there has been an opportunity for the articles to be examined and cleaned in the British Museum, that the find is far more valuable than was at first reported. This is shown in the evidence of Mr. C. W. Phillips of Selwyn College, Cambridge, who had been in charge of the opening of the tumulus since July, and also in a supplementary note contributed by *The Times* museum correspondent in the issue of August 15 which mentions more especially the silver. The objects in this metal include six shapely shallow bowls in almost perfect preservation, about 8 or 9 inches across, and all provincial Byzantine or late Roman. They are decorated with a broad cross, usually of a quatrefoil pattern. A silver dish decorated with a classical woman's head is provincial Byzantine work of the sixth century. A large platter, 28 inches across, was made at Constantinople, and bears marks of the reign of Anastasius I. The gold work, however,

is Saxon, and is said to be extremely massive. In association were forty Merovingian coins. It is thought that this may be the burial place of Redwald, the first of the East Anglian royal family to become High King of England.

The British Speleological Association

DR. R. R. MARETT'S presidential address to the fourth annual Conference of the British Speleological Association, which met at Swansea on August 5-8, tendered in humorous vein an anthropologist's explanation of the attraction of the modern study of caves in 'speleolatriy'—primeval man's worship of the cave, which in the racial consciousness of a late-born generation had assumed the guise of a devotion to science. He was, however, able to support his contention that speleolatriy stood for something real in the history of religion by reference to the evident mystic intention, at least in part, of the palæolithic cave art of France and Spain and the therapeutic cult of the cave of later times. No doubt Dr. Marett had in mind the symbolism of a mystic ritual of approach, when at the opening of the Conference he presented Sir Cyril Fox, director of the National Museum of Wales, with a silver key. Members of the Association were given ample opportunity to experience the inward thrill of which their president had spoken, in the visits which were paid to the numerous caves on shore and inland in the neighbourhood of Swansea, in which the Paviland cave in the Gower Peninsula, famous in the annals of palæontology for its association with the name of Dean Buckland, received its due meed of attention; while in the exhibition arranged by Mrs. A. Williams at the Royal Institution of South Wales, they found illustration of the cave sites and their structure, as well as of the evidence of their occupation by men and animals, ranging from Mousterian to medieval times. Among those who addressed the Conference were Prof. T. Neville George, who discussed the geological aspect of the caves of South Wales, and Prof. Bosch-Gimpera, formerly rector of the University of Barcelona, who dealt with the cultures of the Spanish caves. Dr. Marett was re-elected president of the Association, with Prof. L. S. Palmer as chairman.

Totemic Ceremonial in Arnhem Land, Australia

DR. DONALD F. THOMSON, who was specially commissioned by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to investigate conditions among the aborigines of the Northern Territory during 1936-7, has collected much information relating to the customs and beliefs of the tribes of Arnhem Land, shown in numerous papers published in scientific periodicals and elsewhere since his return to England. He has obtained evidence, for example, running counter to the opinion, long generally accepted, that the indigenous peoples of Australia had been virtually free from external influence after their settlement there. It is now accepted, however, that influence from the north entered the continent at York Peninsula by way of Torres Strait; and Dr. Thomson

finds in the use of wool or fabric to represent the hair of a dog in totemic ceremonial evidence of intercourse with early Malayan or Macassar voyagers, by whom this greatly valued material was brought to the area. Although the dog, which forms the central figure in a remarkable totemic ceremonial witnessed by Dr. Thomson and described by him (*Illustrated London News*, August 12), has been assimilated by the natives to the Australian dingo, it bears unmistakable evidence of an external origin, while the rites differ in many ways from the typical Australian totemic ceremonies. The ritual performance re-enacts in pantomime the myth of the original pair of 'dog' ancestors, who sank in the mud and were overwhelmed by the sea in trying to reach a stranded whale. Finally, they were turned into a great rock, whence now come the baby spirits of members of the clan who enter the mother at pregnancy. In the totemic ceremony, the figure of a dog, which has been constructed by the old men in secret, after giving birth to puppies—an event symbolized by cutting off the hindquarters—is carried along a road while members of the tribe imitate both the gait of puppies and the struggles of the original pair when caught in the mud. One of the tribal totems is a representation of a 'square-face' gin bottle carved in wood.

International Congress of Americanists in Mexico City

THE twenty-seventh International Congress of Americanists was held in Mexico City during August 5-15. General Cardenas was honorary president of the Congress, the acting president being Dr. Alfonso Caso, director of the National Institute of Archaeology and History, whose excavations on Monte Alban have so greatly enriched the national collections of pre-Hispanic antiquities. Mr. T. A. Joyce, formerly of the Ethnographic Department of the British Museum, and Dr. Paul Rivet, of the Musée de l'Homme, Paris, and the foremost authority in France on the ancient indigenous peoples of America, were among those elected as vice-presidents for the meeting. According to a dispatch from the correspondent of *The Times* in the issue of August 8, 120 European and 180 Mexican and other American archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians attended at the Congress. Communications were submitted in nine sections, which included anthropogeography, physical anthropology, American prehistory and archaeology, as well as a section devoted specially to the prehistory and archaeology of Mexico, linguistics, social anthropology and a section dealing with the practical problems which affect the indigenous and negro population of the continent. Excursions were made to archaeological sites at Acolman, Teotihuacan, Tenayuca, Tepoztlan, and the now famous Monte Alban.

Joint Industrial Councils

A BROADSHEET issued by Political and Economic Planning (PEP) reviews the present position of the joint industrial councils and their development from the Whitley Committee in 1916. During 1918-21, National Whitley Councils were established in 80