

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 (P.E.P.) 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

industries but afterwards a number of joint industrial councils collapsed or became moribund. By 1924 there were more than 30 trade boards and more than 50 Whitley Councils in existence but only three new national councils were set up between 1921 and 1930. Although the General Strike of 1926 emphasized the need for a more constructive relation between management and labour, and the Mond-Turner conferences assisted to break down old suspicions and frictions, the position between 1928 and 1934 was stationary. In the last few years, the basic ideas of industrial democracy, industrial organization and standing committees have gained support, and machinery for their implementation has been consolidated. Since 1933, new trade boards have been established in four industries, as well as a form of district organization, with statutory application of agreements, in road transport, while negotiations are proceeding for the improvement of conditions in retail trades by co-operative methods.

THE broadsheet describes in some detail the establishment, achievements and limitations of the two new Whitley Councils, the National Joint Industrial Council for the Clay Industries and the corresponding Council for the Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Industry. In addition the tendency in the older industries for standing committees representing employers and operatives and others, such as the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organisations, to be set up for many purposes is increasing. The building trades have set up the Civil Defence Constructional Industries Committee for the organization of demolition and rescue squads (both light and heavy) in the localities. A Joint Consultative Committee, representing the building employers, operatives and defence departments has also been set up to discuss defence problems affecting the industry. In flour milling there has been a joint deputation to the Government with proposals for maintaining supplies in war-time, while in the docks the employers and operatives are working out a scheme for the transfer of labour from port to port under emergency conditions in war-time. The driving force for co-operative effort no longer comes from a minority of enlightened employers and trade union leaders: on the workers' side particularly the impetus comes from the rank and file as well as from headquarters. Persistence of this attitude should lead to a new period of expansion in the organization of co-operation in British industry.

The Rockefeller Foundation

FIFTEEN million dollars were disbursed in 1938 by the Rockefeller Foundation for the advancement of "the well-being of mankind throughout the world". Being more than twice the year's income, this huge expenditure involved recourse to the principal fund as well as reducing accumulated balances. In addition to its complete annual report, the Foundation has published for wider circulation in pamphlet form an extraordinarily interesting review by its president, Raymond B. Fosdick. In the field of public health, in which alone the Foundation itself undertakes the

conduct of operations, the fight against yellow fever progressed satisfactorily and more than a million vaccinations were performed with its new virus (17D). But a more formidable task is resistance to the invasion of South America by *Anopheles gambiae*, the most deadly of Africa's malaria carriers, introduced apparently by air traffic into Natal in Brazil nine years ago and steadily spreading westward. The Foundation is now co-operating with the Government of Brazil in organizing an anti-gambiae service. In all, 2½ million dollars were given to public health work. The account of contributions to work in the medical sciences is prefaced by a note on the comparative volumes, trends and merits of private and public support of medical research in America and Europe and on the particular fields in which further research is likely to be most productive. One of the least developed is that of mental hygiene: "In no other field is the need more desperate or the potentialities for useful advances more promising. . . . Cases of mental and nervous diseases occupy more hospital beds in this country than all other diseases combined."

WHILE medical sciences absorbed a quarter of the Foundation's 1938 appropriations (not counting 1,580,000 dollars given to the China Medical Board under an earlier authorization), an equal amount was spent in support of the social sciences, chiefly by financing a five-year programme of research and training in public administration in non-academic institutions. Believing that an understanding of the social forces moulding the future can only be arrived at through the dispassionate scientific approach which gave us command over our physical environment, the Foundation continued its support of various organizations working along such lines, notably the Institute of Pacific Relations and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies. Of the 3 million dollars given to the natural sciences, more than half went to the University of Chicago for the endowment of biological research and more than a million in grants to other institutions for work in experimental biology. For projects of rural reconstruction in China 300,000 dollars were given, and despite Japanese depredations all these projects are still functioning. A sketch map shows the enforced transference towards the south-west of the scene of their operations.

Conditions and Aspects of the Scientific Profession

THE summer number of the *Scientific Worker* includes an account of an investigation of the profession of science which the Association of Scientific Workers is undertaking. The inquiry covers the methods of entry into the scientific profession and the actual conditions and economic aspects of the profession. The plan of research is designed to include a study of undergraduates in science departments and a study of practising qualified scientific workers. The former will endeavour to discover the factors which determine the decision to take a university course, the choice of university and course of studies and the extent to which vocational wishes influence