

At a meeting early this year of the Royal Society of Arts, Commander Levick gave an account of the 1938 expedition to Newfoundland, and it is clear from his description that the boys enjoyed the experiences and must have gained enormously from them (*J. Roy. Soc. Arts*, 87, 970, Aug. 1939). In recent expeditions a number of boys from secondary schools have been included in the party, and the Astronomer Royal, who was in the chair, pointed out that the public schoolboys and the secondary schoolboys had a great deal to gain from this contact with each other and from collaboration in such an enterprise.

#### Field Archæology in War Time

ARCHÆOLOGISTS nowadays for the most part, having other preoccupations, have ceased investigations in the field. Nevertheless, experience in the last war showed that military operations may bring to light evidence which, when recorded with such note of the conditions of discovery as circumstances permit, may point the way, as happened in the Macedonian campaign of 1915-18, to further and valuable fields for further research in later days of more assured tranquillity. The valuable collection of prehistoric antiquities at Salonica is not only an enduring monument to the devotion to archæological studies and the *flair* of those archæologists who served in the forces in that theatre of the war, but also, on the cessation of hostilities, it served as the starting-point of a series of investigations in the Macedonian field which have thrown a flood of light on cultural movement in this borderland of prehistoric Greece. Nor should it be allowed to be forgotten that it was directly out of Dr. R. C. Campbell-Thompson's military service in Mesopotamia, which afforded him opportunity for an archæological reconnaissance, that there grew the joint expedition of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania to Ur, at first under the direction of the late Dr. H. R. Hall, and later of Sir Leonard Woolley—as a whole, and in its effect on study of the growth of early civilizations, which is still far from being exhausted, one of the most momentous in a long series of discoveries in the history of archæology.

SUCH opportunities in the field overseas are not likely to recur—indeed it is permissible, without risk of misunderstanding, to hope that they will not. But already on the home front a number of finds, recorded in connexion with A.R.P. and other military or defensive activities, bear witness to the vigilance of local archæologists and their solicitude that any evidence of antiquity brought to light shall not escape record. Among the latest finds reported is a discovery at Canterbury (*The Times*, Sept. 25), where in excavating a trench at the Simon Langton schools, on the site of the White, or Austin Friars' former buildings, material of considerable archæological interest has been brought to light. A passage, built of chalk blocks and believed to lead to the Cathedral, is stated to have been found at this point about twenty-five years ago. The site is also known to cover extensive Roman remains; but unfortunately, the need for haste demanded the use of a mechanical

excavator and precluded scientific examination of the stratigraphic record. Most of the relics found were of medieval date, and included massive parts of what are believed to be the base of the Friary buildings, a simple medieval copper ring, a sixteenth-century inscribed German jetton, and human bones in no particular order, as well as an undisturbed east-to-west Christian burial. The copper ring was six feet below the surface in an early, probably medieval, cemetery. Of still greater archæological interest was the evidence of a Roman kitchen midden, from which were obtained much broken pottery coated with soot, some fragments of Samian ware, and quantities of burnt wood. These finds were associated with a bed of oyster shells.

#### Reports of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition

SLOWLY the reports upon the extensive collections made in Antarctic seas by Sir Douglas Mawson's Expedition of 1911-14 are being completed and published (1, part 3; 2, part 4; 2, part 8. Sydney: Gov. Printer). Among the zoological contributions are Prof. T. Harvey Johnston's "Parasitic Infusoria from Macquarie Island" which include ciliates from a lamellibranch and a suctorian from an Asellid crustacean, both of which appear to be new to science; an account of forty species of Pycnogonida, among which Decolopoda is not represented, by Dr. Isabella Gordon; and a description by Prof. G. E. Nicholls of seven genera and twenty-six species of Gammarid Amphipods new to science, in a collection which includes ninety species representative of sixty genera.

#### Earthquake near Smyrna

AN earthquake of considerable intensity shook the district around Smyrna on Friday, September 22. In Smyrna itself more than 200 people are reported killed, many more injured and 5,000 are without shelter. In the surrounding district several villages have been almost destroyed. During the remainder of Friday and Saturday, aftershocks have occurred almost continuously, accompanied by underground rumblings. This region of Asia Minor is liable to earthquakes and earth tremors. Smyrna was affected by an earthquake which was destructive also at Aidin and places in the Meander Valley on September 20, 1899, though on that occasion the epicentre was somewhat to the south of the present one, being then near lat. 37.5° N., long. 27.5° E. A destructive earthquake again affected Smyrna on March 31, 1928, the epicentre on that occasion being calculated from the readings of 96 seismograms to have been at lat. 38.5° N., long. 28.0° E., somewhat inland to the east of Smyrna. Further data concerning the present shock will no doubt be somewhat delayed, though it appears to have been sufficiently intense to have affected seismographs throughout the world.

#### Other Recent Earthquakes

AN earthquake of moderate intensity was recorded at Kew Observatory on September 15. The *P* waves started at 23h. 21m. 42s. G.M.T. on the seismogram