

is $3\frac{1}{2}$ metres long, and not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres wide. An unusual feature of the outer sarcophagus is the decoration on both the upper and under surface of the cover. On the upper surface is a full length image of the king dressed as Osiris. Broken features of the image of the inner sarcophagus suggest that it was damaged when being introduced into the tomb.

Antiquity : a Sutton Hoo Number

Antiquity of March last is devoted to a detailed account of the discovery, excavation and finds of the Sutton Hoo ship-burial. The excavation is described by Mr. C. W. Phillips, who points out that until 1939 the archaeology of Britain in Anglo-Saxon times has had to concern itself little with either ship-burials or to a great extent with rich burials of any kind, for omitting those of Kent, and a few important burials at Taplow, Broomfield and elsewhere, the most striking feature of Anglo-Saxon graves is their almost universal poverty. In the more detailed description of the finds Mr. T. D. Kendrick gives accounts of the gold ornaments, the large hanging bowl and the jewellery; the silver is described by Mr. Ernst Kitzinger, and a summary account of the coins is contributed by the editor, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford. Mr. W. F. Grimes is responsible for a description of the methods followed in salvaging the finds, "an exciting and exacting task, extending over more than a week", in which he was first called to participate when the gold purse and its trappings had been found. Serious problems were presented by corrosion, but their solution called for no new and elaborate technical methods, but rather the application of simple readily available means to deal with an unexpected range of materials, each apart from the gold objects with its own set of problems. The identity of the individual whom the mound and its contents commemorated is discussed in full detail by Dr. H. Munro Chadwick, who accepts the possibility that it may have been the cenotaph of a king lost at sea—the editor of *Antiquity* here points out that there never has been question of a burial. After discussion of the various possibilities Dr. Chadwick elects for Redwald (*ob. c.* 624–5) as the most probable. The series of photographs accompanying these contributions constitutes a valuable record of this notable find.

Indian Farming

THIS new monthly magazine, issued by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, replaces the bi-monthly *Agricultural and Livestock in India*, published by the Council since 1931. The aim of *Indian Farming* is to present scientific information in a popular form, and to form a link between the research worker and the cultivator. The format of the new journal is more pleasing than that of its predecessor and should appeal to a wider public. The contents include original articles on agricultural science, short notes on selected research work, reports from research stations, "answers to correspondents", practical hints to farmers, and book reviews. The popularization of agricultural science is a task as difficult as it is important, and the

editorial committee is to be congratulated on its good beginning in seeking the happy mean between over- and under-simplification. The first article, by Sir Jagdish Prasad, on agricultural research in war, puts in a timely plea for the continuation of pure research during a period of stress when the demands for immediate results are most pressing.

Fluorescent Enamel Paints

THE Continental Lithograph Corporation, 952 East 72nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio, has put on the market a series of 'enamel paints' (Conti-Glo Fluorescent Lacquer Enamels) with which brilliant fluorescence effects can be obtained when they are illuminated by radiation in the 'near ultra-violet'. Such a radiation can be conveniently obtained from tungsten filament lamps having bulbs of 'black' glass; these are supplied by the same Company. They are mounted in aluminium reflectors in order to concentrate the ultra-violet energy on the enamelled surface.

Tested with a mercury vapour lamp screened by a plate of ultra-violet transmitting glass, the samples appear to justify the maker's claims. The colours include white, pink, and orange, with various yellows, greens, and blues. Moreover, the fluorescent hue is markedly different in some cases from that of the paint in ordinary light; thus a cream paint becomes a green in the ultra-violet and a rose colour fluoresces red, while a white becomes a blue. These enamels have interesting possibilities for entertainment and decoration. They are said to be easily applied by ordinary spraying and brushing methods, and can even be applied (diluted with lacquer-thinner) to fabrics.

Saliva Superstitions

THE December issue of *Folk-Lore* contains a richly documented article on this subject by Miss Rachel Sclare, of Leeds, who illustrates the medicinal and curative properties attributed to saliva throughout the ages and different parts of the world by quotations from the New Testament, the writers of classical antiquity (Theocritus, Tacitus and Pliny), the Middle Ages (Hildegard of Bingen, Maimonides, and Albertus Magnus), and modern times (Brand, Tylor and Frazer). The diseases for which saliva has been used both as a curative and less frequently as a prophylactic measure are numerous, and include sore eyes, blindness, rheumatism, headache, toothache, warts, burns, wounds, etc. As a prophylactic, saliva has been employed as a protection against infectious diseases and as an antidote to poisons, as well as a means of averting ill-luck. The belief in the magical properties of saliva, which still flourishes not only in primitive races but even in England as well as in other civilized countries, appears to be founded on the supposition that this secretion possesses a vital force closely connected with man's blood and the whole of his person.

The Bed of Procrustes

A WITTY and amusing paper with this title was read by Mr. Gordon D. Knox before a meeting of the Tenterden Toc H (Tenterden: K. P. Press, 1940. 1s.).