

other aspect of river water. Pollution, drainage, fisheries, inland navigation, tidal navigation, ports, water supply, sewage disposal, etc., each has for most rivers a separate supervising body. The complex administration for this diversity of closely interrelated problems has led the Committee to suggest means of more closely co-ordinating administrative control.

The defects of the present system are most apparent as regards the mitigation of pollution, a problem in which the local government areas bear no relation to watershed areas. Thus there is a patchwork of control, actuated by varying standards of purity, over the same river. Moreover, an overlapping of functions in this and other problems does not encourage efficiency and smooth working. In certain river interests no authority is directly concerned with amenities and public use. Again, an authority concerned only with drainage may well interfere with underground water resources in other parts of the river valley, and there may be considerable divergence between the interests of bodies charged with conservation of fisheries, use of tidal waters, sewage discharge and industrial work.

The Committee finds, however, that the principal defect of the existing system is not the overlapping function, nor the possibility of conflict between interests, but the fact that no single body is charged with the duty of co-ordinating various river interests, or the duty of weighing fully all questions under review and so ensuring that the river water is used to the best advantage of all concerned. It suggests, therefore, the formation of new river boards in place of certain of the existing bodies. Tidal waters, except as regards pollution, should be left under the authority of navigation and other similar authorities. Probably the same restriction should apply to inland navigation which, generally speaking, should be left under the administration of existing authority. The administrative area of each of the new boards should be a watershed area in the case of the larger rivers, or two or more watershed areas grouped together.

A map of the twenty-nine suggested river boards is attached to the report, which concludes with consideration of constitution and finance.

A SYNTHESIS OF NEW WORLD ARCHÆOLOGICAL FINDS

SO many local publications have been appearing lately, some of considerable interest, that it is a relief to turn to a work of synthesis. A recent publication of the American Philosophical Society (*Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.*, "Recent Advances in American Archaeology", 86, No. 2; February 10, 1943) is extremely interesting in that it attempts to bring up to date, or rather to the end of 1942, the more important archaeological discoveries in the New World. There are fourteen articles, and it is to be regretted that space will only allow of one or two of these to be referred to.

Archaeologists interested in Maya problems will turn at once to the first article, but the second, which deals with Eskimo archaeology and its bearing on the problem of man's antiquity in America, is also of great interest. A new site has been examined, and the culture there discovered (Ipiutak) does not readily fit in with the accepted chronological sequence of cultures, although it is clearly related to that

known as the 'Old Bering Sea', and may even be earlier in date. Much material is turning up in the Lake Baikal region in northern Asia, and this has been dated as Mesolithic to Neolithic. The finds are definitely earlier than the Bronze Age Glazkovski and Tiverski cultures. These early northern Asian finds recall intimately the early stages of Eskimo cultural development. Indeed, it would seem certain that the two cultural areas can be equated. But neither near Lake Baikal nor in early Eskimo sites have such earlier types of tool as the Sandia or Folsom points come to light, and in the Baikal district only one example recalling the Yuma point has turned up. The Yuma point occurs in American sites later in time than either the Sandia or the Folsom, and it would thus appear that there were folk in America at an earlier date than this Lake Baikal complex, which gave rise afterwards to the Eskimo migrations into the New World. Whether the Sandia and Folsom cultures represent the results of earlier migrations into America from northern Asia—perhaps of upper palaeolithic date—remains to be proved. The upper palaeolithic finds eastward of Lake Baikal are at present too scanty to furnish any evidence. The very early discoveries at the Sandia Cave may not yet be assimilated by every archaeologist, as they are fairly recent news. Articles both on Sandia Cave and on the problem of the Folsom and Yuma points can be read in these *Proceedings*.

A long account of the burial of an early American magician, illustrated by no less than three plates in colour, is of considerable interest.

The above notice mentions only a few of the articles which help to bring up to date the recent archaeological discoveries, and the whole forms an important symposium for anyone interested in the archaeology of northern America. M. C. B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Meetings marked with an asterisk * are open to the public)

Saturday, November 13

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY (in the Department of Organic Chemistry, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, London, S.W.7), at 11 a.m.—Discussion on "The Tetrapyrrolic Pigments".

At 11.15 a.m.—Prof. D. Keilin, F.R.S.: "Properties and Function of Natural Tetrapyrrolic Compounds".

At 12.10 p.m.—Prof. H. Munro Fox, F.R.S.: "Varieties of Hemoglobin".

At 1.45 p.m.—Mr. R. Hill: "Tetrapyrrolic Compounds in Plants".

At 2.35 p.m.—Dr. E. F. Hartree: "The Constitution of Catalase".

At 3.15 p.m.—Mr. J. R. P. O'Brien: "The Metabolism of Blood Tetrapyrrolic Pigments".

At 4.30 p.m.—Dr. C. Rimington: "The Porphyrinopathies".

Monday, November 15

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 3 p.m.—Mr. Otto Popper: "The International Regime of the Danube".

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIAN ENGINEERS, CHEMISTS AND SCIENTIFIC WORKERS IN GREAT BRITAIN (at the Institution of Structural Engineers, 11 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1), at 7.15 p.m.—Dr. O. P. Eimerl: "Present and Future Application of Light Alloys".

Tuesday, November 16

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS (BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE) (in the Council House, Birmingham), at 10 a.m.—Conference on "Industrial Safety" (to be opened by Mr. Geo. Tomlinson, M.P.).

At 10.30 a.m.—Sir Wilfrid Garrett: "The Future of Accident Prevention".

At 11.45 a.m.—Mr. W. Higgs, M.P.: "Economics of Safety".

At 2.15 p.m.—Dr. J. M. Davidson and Mr. S. H. Wilkes: "Chemical Hazards—New and Old".

At 3.15 p.m.—Mr. A. P. Young: "Education and Propaganda".

EUGENICS SOCIETY (at the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1), at 5 p.m.—Mr. R. M. Titmuss: "Social Environment and Eugenics".