

concerned. Courses ranging from a week-end to a month were devoted to instructor training, to the general educational needs of people shortly to be demobilized, and to social and leisure interests. The value of these residential colleges in a university atmosphere has been recognized by both Forces education officers and civilians alike, and there seems little doubt that these colleges are making a distinctive contribution to Service education out of all proportion to the small numbers who can attend.

The needs of the Forces overseas have increased, and many regional committees were generous in releasing both full-time lecturers and members of their part-time panels to spend one month or more with Commands overseas; visits have already been made to Germany, Italy, Austria, the Middle East, India, Ceylon and Burma. Two of the lecturers, Dr. Gavin Henderson and Dr. J. W. Jenkins, lost their lives during their periods of work overseas.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN COMMISSION

THE report of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission to the Governments of the United States and Great Britain for the year 1944*, publication of which has been delayed by war-time shortage of staff, refers to the Land Tenure Symposium at Puerto Rico, August 27-September 2, 1944, held in accordance with a recommendation of the Caribbean Research Council, which included technical papers from specialists, informal discussions and tours of the research and educational institutions and of the land-tenure improvement projects in Puerto Rico. Questionnaires prepared and sent out by the Research Council during the year relating to crop growing and animal husbandry within the Caribbean covered sugar, livestock, grain crops, grasses and grassland management, root crops and pulses, and vegetables. The Committee on Agriculture has requested from each department of agriculture and research institution in the area a complete list of addresses to which its publications have been sent and a list of research workers within its field of specialization, from which lists it is proposed to compile for circulation a comprehensive mailing list and a list of research workers and their subjects. Dr. C. E. Charden, director of the Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, visited Barbados and Trinidad in December 1944 in connexion with the joint survey of agricultural research agencies to be made by him and Prof. D. D. Paterson of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. Dr. Paterson visited Puerto Rico in the spring of 1945 and a joint report is being compiled.

Further work of the Anglo-American fishery survey during 1944 explored the resources within the Eastern Group of the British West Indies and was extended up to nine months in the waters of Trinidad, Tobago and British Guiana. The results of the otter trawling and the interest displayed by local fishermen led to the publication of a pamphlet describing the construction and use of small otter trawls suitable for local use. A report on the survey will shortly be published as a special bulletin, and a practical and

comprehensive guide on shark fishing has been prepared and issued for the use of the fishermen themselves.

A joint programme for the control of venereal disease has been initiated with permanent headquarters in Port-of-Spain, and this Caribbean Medical Centre, in addition to conducting serological surveys, treating patients, and educating the public to the necessity of diagnosis and treatment, is conducting an intensive training programme of local personnel. Dr. R. Kahn visited the Centre, at the invitation of the Trinidad Government, to investigate and advise on the serological reactions for syphilis, especially in regard to the standardization of serological technique in the Caribbean and to bring up-to-date knowledge of the role of serology in syphilis control. The exchange of visits of outstanding men of science between the United States, Canada and Great Britain and the Caribbean area to exchange knowledge and stimulate research is a major objective of the Commission.

A West Indian Medical Conference at Trinidad was attended by representatives of all the medical departments of the British Colonies, while the necessary steps to set up the Caribbean Research Council and the four recommended research committees, dealing with public health and medicine, industries, building and engineering research and social science have now been taken at the sixth meeting of the Commission in Washington in March 1945, following on meetings of the Provisional Committees at St. Thomas in September 1944, when recommendations for membership and for the field of work of the Permanent Committees were made to the Council. The report also stresses the value of the West Indian Conference at Barbados in March 1944, and the Commission itself examined the question of the practicability of another such conference. While the conclusion was reluctantly reached that this was impracticable, it is hoped that a second West Indian Conference will be announced in due course; the Provisional Committee of the Caribbean Research Council has already recommended the establishment of a central secretariat to serve all committees and to work in liaison with the executive secretaries of the Commission. The Commission has also considered the creation of a permanent conference secretariat, but without regarding the matter as urgent pending the fixing of the date of the second conference.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SCIENTIFIC REPORT FOR 1944-45

THE Scientific Report of the Royal College of Surgeons for the year 1944-45 records welcome progress in reconstruction and reassembly of specimens dispersed during the War. Prof. R. A. Willis, the newly appointed Sir William H. Collins professor of human and comparative pathology, reports the return to the College of specimens which have been acquired since the disaster which the Museum suffered in 1941. There are more than six hundred of them, and they have been so well cared for during their dispersal that most of them have been added to the Museum. Prof. Willis and his staff have spent much time on problems of reconstruction, building, illumination and display of specimens. This report gives a list of the additions made to the Museum.

* Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, 810 18th Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

The Wellcome Trust has given £80,000 for the extension of the College's Museum, and it has been decided to name one wing of the new building the "Sir Henry Wellcome Wing". Up to July 1945 the College had received £122,000 of the £250,000 required to complete the restoration and development of the College.

The staff of the Department of Anatomy has been strengthened by the appointment of Prof. F. Wood Jones to the Sir William H. Collins chair of human and comparative anatomy. This department also has been occupied with problems arising from the war-time dispersal of its specimens to institutions and private residences, where they have been well looked after. No new anatomical preparations have been made this session, but the report records the other work of the department and gives a list of the additions made to the anatomical, osteological, physiological, odontological and historical sections of the Museum and also additions to the collections of instruments.

The Bernhard Baron Research Laboratories, under the direction of Prof. John Beattie, has, during the past five years, made important contributions to the study of blood transfusion, the maintenance of constant blood volume and problems of blood dilution when hæmorrhage occurs. Prof. Beattie here gives a valuable brief review of this problem. It was found that, in fully hydrated subjects, the plasma protein concentration did not fall as the hæmoglobin concentration fell, and that protein was being added to the extravascular fluid which was entering the circulation to restore the blood volume. This added protein came partly from the liver and partly from the muscles. The plasma protein moved out of the circulation as rapidly as it entered it after hæmorrhage, or sometimes even more rapidly. There is therefore in normal persons a protein store which can be rapidly mobilized into the blood stream. Prof. Beattie discusses the rate of this protein synthesis, which determines how much protein can be lost from the body (in exudates from wounds or burns, for example) without loss of weight or hypoproteinæmia. A study of this problem led to experiments, which are still in progress, on the intravenous administration of proteins, such as casein hydrolysates.

The problem of protein synthesis is also being attacked through the study of cases of infective hepatitis and allied diseases of the liver. People suffering from these diseases rapidly lose weight in the early phases, and the balance between intake and output of nitrogen is negative and accounts for practically all the loss of weight. A time comes, however, when the protein is again synthesized and retained; the nitrogen balance becomes positive and the excess of synthesis over destruction of protein can be measured. Much information about the rate of protein synthesis has been obtained by these studies. The relationships between necrosis of the liver and severe trauma and cessation of healing have also been studied.

The bearing of this work on the importance of diet in surgical care was shown by studies in Holland after the liberation, when the grossly inadequate protein intakes before liberation prevented or delayed healing of wounds, so that surgical work was practically at a standstill. Within a few weeks of increase of the protein ration and of the total caloric intake, surgical operations could again be undertaken. Supplementary feeding in the form of 100 gm. of

protein daily given as predigested proteins rapidly speeded up wound healing and created a positive nitrogen balance. At the request of Supreme Headquarters, Netherlands, the Bernhard Baron Laboratories provided the nucleus of a laboratory team which went to Holland with the army of occupation to study the effects of long-continued deprivation of food in that country. A report on this work is being submitted to the Medical Research Council.

The laboratory has now returned to the Royal College of Surgeons. Dr. F. K. Sanders, Leverhulme Research Scholar at the Department of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at Oxford, has continued his work on peripheral nerve injuries. G. LAPAGE.

A FRENCH MESOLITHIC SITE

THE rock-shelter of Cuzoul, near Gramat, is in the Lot (France). It is large in size, extending some 30 m. by 17 m. and 2½ m. high. The excavators* have unearthed seven archæological levels separated from each other by thin sterile layers. Industries, mainly mesolithic in date and culture, have been collected as well as associated fauna and some human remains from levels 2, 4 and 6. Level 2 yielded a complete skeleton.

As regards the industries, microlithic implements of Tardenoisean facies occur throughout. But in levels 6 and 7 they are associated with other, later, types such as leaf-shaped arrow-heads; and actually, in level 7, with tanged and tanged-and-winged arrow-heads and some pottery. The authors assign the industry of level 1 to the Sauveterrien, that of levels 2 and 3 to an early Tardenoisean, that of 4 and 5 to a later Tardenoisean, and that of levels 6 and 7 to a final stage of the same culture. This may well be correct, but one would venture to suggest that, in time, these industries of the upper two levels are of a latish neolithic or even an early metal age date. Such overlaps between the latest phases of the mesolithic and later cultures are well known in Britain, especially in Scotland. Again, the industries from Mugem (Portugal) and Axpea (Spain), though culturally speaking they appear to be mainly mesolithic, must be contemporary with much more recent cultures elsewhere. Except for the more recent additions in the upper two levels the industries as a whole are fairly similar. There are blunted backs, burins of various types, notched blades, awls, disks, scrapers, etc. But it is true to say that the lower levels show more affinities with an upper palæolithic industry than do the later ones. A bone perforated object and some large bone awls as well as a small pierced shell came from level 2, the complete skeleton layer.

In many ways one can say that the publication is a model. After describing the situation and the stratigraphy, an account of the fauna found is given. Then follows a detailed description of the finds, level by level, concluding with a brief comparative table. Following this comes an account of the human remains found, comparisons being made with those from Téviec and Mugem. In conclusion, there are eight full-page plates. The authors are to be congratulated on a really excellent piece of work, well performed and well published. M. C. BURKITT.

* Le gisement mésolithique du Cuzoul de Gramat. Par R. Lacam, A. Niederlender et H.-V. Vallois. (Archives de l'Institut de Paléontologie humaine, Mémoire 21.) Pp. iii+92+8 plates. (Paris: Masson et Cie., 1944.) 220 francs.