

NEWS and VIEWS

Expedition to Greenland

A ROYAL Air Force Coastal Command flying boat, which is visiting Greenland in the course of routine flying training, is taking a small party to carry out a preliminary survey for a more ambitious expedition planned for next year, when geological, glaciological, meteorological and biological work will be carried out. The present expedition, which is privately sponsored and has the approval of the learned societies, including the Royal Society, the Polar Institute and the Royal Geographical Society, will spend a month to six weeks in Greenland. The party is led by Commander (L) C. J. W. Simpson, and will include Capt. M. E. B. Banks, Lieut. F. R. Brooke and Lieut. Angus Erskine. While surveys of the mountainous coastal ranges of Greenland have been nearly completed, little is known of the interior. It is, however, known that in the region called Queen Louise Land in lat. 77° N. there is a range of nunataks 100 miles long, 40 miles wide and rising to about 7,000 ft. To reach this range entails crossing a 20-mile wide glacier. This year's party intends to land on a long lake near the coast and to make its way by a rubber boat to the glacier. With the aid of a Greenland trapper and dog sledges, it expects to cross the glacier and survey a second lake about three miles long that lies along the eastern edge of Queen Louise Land. It is hoped to find on this lake a site for a base camp for further exploration next year, and to discover whether this lake would offer suitable landing for float planes which may be used by the main expedition. It is also intended to bring back geological specimens and to reconnoitre a suitable sledging route through the mountains to the inland ice lying beyond to the westward.

Major Visible Antiquities in Great Britain before 1066

THE Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey is to be warmly commended for producing a map of the principal visible ancient sites and monuments in Great Britain, of origin before A.D. 1066, which is designed not for the archaeologist but rather for the tourist and all those interested in ancient history. The scale is 1/625,000 (or about ten miles to the inch), and this allows the map to be printed on two sheets, one for England south of the line running approximately from Scarborough to Windermere (and including the Isle of Man) and the other for the rest of England and Scotland (including the Scottish islands) (obtainable from the Ordnance Survey, Chessington, Surrey; 6s. 9d. each sheet). The map is in faded grey with the sites superimposed in black type, these being classified and marked with a distinguishing symbol according to the age group: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze, Iron, Roman, Dark Ages and uncertain; in addition, Roman roads and canals, and earthworks and frontier defences are shown. It must be stressed that in all cases the emphasis is on the visibility of the site or monument in question; thus, the only sections of Roman roads which are shown are those which are well preserved and recognizable as such and have not been merged into the modern road system. One or two exceptions to the rule of visibility have been made in the case of those sites which, though worked on and filled in, are exceptionally well known for the value to scholarship of the material they have yielded. As is pointed out in the preface to the sheets, the

long forms of cairn and barrow have for the most part been allocated to the Neolithic period, and in the same way the round forms to the Bronze, a classification which is to some extent a convention but nevertheless a convenient one. The age group, 'Dark Ages', covers the period from the end of the Roman occupation up to 1066 and is necessarily a 'mixed bag'. Finally, a small number of museums of special interest have been marked, the most important of which is the Pitt Rivers Museum at Farnham. Both sheets contain an index of names for the whole map, and with each name is a brief description (one to a dozen words), age-group, Ordnance Survey sheet reference to the one-inch series of maps, and the National Grid reference point.

Israel National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

AN Israel National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics has recently been formed, with Prof. M. Reiner and E. Traub (both of the Hebrew Institute of Technology) as chairman and honorary secretary-treasurer, respectively. An application for admittance as an adhering body has been submitted to the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics; Prof. S. Goldstein, previously of the University of Manchester and now vice-president of the Hebrew Institute of Technology, Haifa, is a personal member of the general assembly of the International Union. The Committee held a scientific colloquium in Haifa at the Hebrew Institute of Technology during April 23-24. There were two general lectures: Prof. Goldstein gave a review of the present state of the statistical theory of turbulence, and Prof. F. Ollendorf (Hebrew Institute of Technology) dealt with the mechanics of the trajectories of the electrons in electron-lens cathode-ray tubes. The other papers dealt with two main subjects, namely, questions of capillarity and of elastic semi-liquids. In the first group M. Ram (Ministry of Agriculture) considered the influence of a capillary film in the soil upon building foundations, while N. Klein (Rheological Laboratory of the Hebrew Institute of Technology) discussed the oil distribution in paper under the influence of gravity. In the second group, papers were given as follows: Dr. A. Katchalsky (Weizmann Institute of Science) presented the modern theory of cross-linked polymer gels; Dr. E. Alexander (Hebrew University) reported upon experiments with a modification of the Gardner mobilometer by means of which the time of thixotropic regeneration can be determined; Prof. Reiner showed how a contravariant measure of strain parallel with the usual covariant measure could account for the centripetal-pump effect in elastic liquids; and Miss I. Braun (Rheological Laboratory of the Hebrew Institute of Technology) demonstrated the effect in rubber toluene solutions.

Radiotherapy and Cancer

THE work of the Medical Research Council's radiotherapeutic research unit on the experimental comparison between the effects of gamma-rays and X-rays is recorded in "Researches on the Radiotherapy of Oral Cancer" by Constance A. P. Wood and J. W. Boag (Medical Research Council Special Report Series, No. 267; pp. 148+30 plates; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1950; 12s. 6d. net). By means of the disk contour-finder, described fully in this report and illustrated by means of photographs and drawings by P. Howard-Flanders, it is