

in the firm's earnings. In 1919 he gave one-third of his own holdings of company stock, then worth ten million dollars, to his employees, and later he established the retirement annuity, life assurance and disability benefit plan for his workers. He gave dental clinics to London, Paris, Rome, Brussels and Stockholm, and large sums of money to educational institutions, so that in all he gave away more than one hundred million dollars.

### The Piltdown Bones and 'Implements'

IN view of the recent meeting of the Geological Society (p. 61 of this issue), a communication by Prof. M. F. Ashley Montagu, of the Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University (*Science*, 119, 884; June 18, 1954), in which he poses some pertinent questions, is of interest. He examined the original Piltdown bones in 1951, and now questions the presence of portions of a turbinated, since he cannot recall any instance in the annals of palaeoanthropology of this extremely fragile bone ever having been recovered in a fossil hominid. He continues: "If it does naturally belong with the Piltdown bones, then it may be regarded as casting considerable doubt upon the antiquity of the Piltdown skull. . . ." After questioning other points, hitherto accepted as authentic, Prof. Ashley Montagu refers to the 'bone implement', saying: "It is highly probable that when this alleged 'bone implement' is carefully studied it will be found that the terminal facets were produced by a sharp metal blade probably of the Sheffield steel variety; in short, that this 'bone implement' is quite as much a fake as the mandible".

### Registration of Chemists and Engineers in the United States

THE United States National Science Foundation is to compile a National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel, and recently it has received two grants for the registration of chemists and engineers, with which it is possible to make a start on the work. The registration of chemists will be undertaken by the American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., and the Society is sending out questionnaires to an initial list of fifty thousand American chemists. In all, it is expected that information will be obtained from approximately sixty-five thousand chemists, and the details will be kept up to date by the Society. The registration information on each individual will include name, address, education, chemical specialty and current employment. Duplicate copies will be sent to the Foundation for statistical studies and to assist in the mobilization of scientists in time of war. The information will not be used normally for finding posts for, or placing scientists. The registration of engineers will be conducted by the Engineers Joint Council, New York. At present, no attempt will be made to obtain registration information on all the estimated half a million engineers in the United States, but this section of the Register will be limited to about twenty thousand leaders in all engineering fields. The selection will be based on "Who's Who in Engineering" and other sources. The list will be maintained up to date by the Engineers Joint Council.

At the present time ten professional societies or associations are collecting registration information for the Register, the estimated numbers of scientific workers who will be listed being as shown: American Institute of Biological Sciences, 40,000; Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology,

10,000; American Veterinary Medical Association, 14,000; American Geological Institute, 18,000; American Psychological Association, 11,000; American Institute of Physics, 15,000; American Meteorological Society, 10,000; American Mathematical Society, 12,000; American Chemical Society, 65,000; and Engineers Joint Council, 20,000. The National Science Foundation expects the initial registration of all these classes of scientific workers to be completed by June 1955. Inevitably, some workers are classified in more than one field; but, although there is a danger of duplication of names owing to the decentralized manner in which the registration is being carried out, this is being avoided by liaison between the various bodies, and in the preliminary consolidation of the individual lists it is hoped to be able to eliminate most of the duplications.

### The Botanical Survey of India

A SCHEME for the reorganization of the Botanical Survey of India has recently been approved by the Government of India. The main features of the scheme are: (1) The division of India into a number of regional groups based on phyto-geographic affinities, each under a regional botanist, who will be responsible for the survey of that region. The regional groups will be designated as north, south, east and west, with their headquarters at Dehra Dun or Lucknow, Madras, Calcutta and Poona, respectively. (2) Establishment of a central directorate under an officer who will be designated as the chief botanist, for co-ordinating the activities of the various regional groups and for implementing the policy laid down by Government. (3) The creation of a central botanical laboratory under a director at a suitable place in India, where the living plant will be studied in relation to its biology and its utility to the nation. (4) The maintenance of a Central National Herbarium which will house the 'type specimens' and a fully representative collection of the plants comprising the flora of India. (5) Maintenance of a botanical museum on modern lines in Calcutta.

All existing facilities in the country will be utilized to the fullest in the reorganized Botanical Survey. Collaboration with the universities and research institutions will be encouraged by making grants to staff and research students to conduct research on problems dealing with the flora of India, and for collecting material for the long overdue revision of Hooker's "Flora of India". Inclusion of university students in Botanical Survey explorations and the imparting of practical instructions in collecting and preserving of specimens is also envisaged. The Botanical Survey will search for new economic plants in the unexplored regions of India. The introduction of plants from outside India will also be the function of the reorganized Survey. The director of the Central Botanical Laboratory has been already appointed. She is Dr. E. K. Janaki Amal, who has graduated in the United States, worked at the John Innes Horticultural Institute, London, during the War, and spent several years in the Wisley Gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society.

### Two Meteorites Found in Australia

THE curator of the Western Australian Museum (Beaufort Street, Perth), L. Glauret, reports that two unusually large meteorites have been acquired by the Museum. Mr. E. C. Johnson, whose farm is about twenty miles south-east of Quairading, has presented what is as yet the largest known fragment of the