

it, Miss S. W. Miles has drawn on the sources, principally the writings of Las Casas and of his fellow Dominicans, Diego de Zuñiga, Pedro Moran and Thomas Gage, and has recently published a documentary analysis of the social structure and archaeological setting of the Pokom-Maya in the sixteenth century (*Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc.*, 47, 735; 1957). De Zuñiga's vocabulary is a rich mine of information on the culture of the Pokomechi shortly after the Spanish conquest. This is a first-rate piece of difficult research.

### Statistics of Smoking

"'STATISTICS OF SMOKING' . . . is the first of a series of Research Papers which will be published from time to time by the Tobacco Manufacturers' Standing Committee as a contribution to research. The subjects of these monographs will be those to which the T.M.S.C. is able, by means of the resources at its command, to make an authoritative contribution." So states the explanatory note attached to an extensive survey (edited by G. F. Todd. Pp. 64. London: Campbell-Johnson, Ltd., 1957) relating to tobacco sales and consumption figures for the United Kingdom and twenty-one other countries. The paper is very welcome, both as a symbol of co-operative effort and for the data presented. Many workers will find these figures fascinating as well as useful, and the substitution of estimates for that which "is notorious, and conspicuous in the memory of most of us" (Fisher, R. A., *Brit. Med. J.*, 2, 297; 1957) cannot but do good. There is, perhaps, a possibility that the words "authoritative contribution" may lead to too great a reliance being placed on some figures. For example, Table 3 provides figures for the "Consumption of Tobacco Goods by Women in the U.K." yearly from 1920, but no explanation is given as to how the estimates have been made; without such an explanation it is difficult to form an opinion as to their probable accuracy.

### Research at the University of Melbourne

BELIEVING that a university has a duty to inform the public-at-large of its activities, the University of Melbourne has issued the second copy of its journal, *Discovery*, which has been designed deliberately for the layman. The first appeared in June 1955 and presented the broad background of research being undertaken in various university departments. The present volume explains in greater detail some twenty research prospects; topics have been chosen as much by their possibility of clear exposition as by their intrinsic importance to the general reader. All topics are included under the five headings: discovery in medicine, in science, in the humanities, in technology and in the social sciences. They are well chosen, clearly written, and generously supplemented with photographs. A colour plate on the cover of this attractive journal is a reproduction of a mural by Douglas Annand and Tom Bass in one of the university halls. It is a graphic representation of humanity struggling from the chaos of its primitive origins and striving to reach the light of truth as symbolized by the Sun—and will long excite admiration.

### National Science Foundation Grants

THE National Science Foundation has announced 409 grants totalling 15,035,656 dollars awarded

during the quarter ending December 31, 1957, for the support of basic research in the sciences, for support of basic research facilities, for conferences in support of science, for exchange of scientific information, and for training of science teachers. This is the second group of awards to be made during the fiscal year 1958. During the first quarter, 316 such grants were awarded, totalling almost 5.5 million dollars. Grants announced recently were made to institutions and scientists in the United States, Canada, Britain, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The research fields included are anthropology, astronomy, chemistry, biology, physics, earth sciences, engineering sciences, mathematical sciences, and socio-physical sciences.

### The Royal Society of London

BESIDES a report of an address by the president, Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, in which he defines the aims and functions of the Royal Society of London, the latest issue of *Notes and Records* is mainly devoted to accounts of the life and work of Edmond Halley and Sir Charles Sherrington (12, No. 2). Halley is described by Prof. S. Chapman and Sir Harold Spencer Jones, while Sherrington's career and interests are considered in articles by Lord Adrian and J. C. Eccles. A description of the exhibition prepared by the Society to celebrate Halley's tercentenary is given by Sir Edward Bullard and C. A. Ronan. Other articles include one by Prof. Douglas McKie on Bernard le Boivier de Fontenelle and an account of the visit to the U.S.S.R. of the Royal Society delegation in 1956. An admirable word-portrait of J. J. Thomson as they knew him is painted by George and Joan Thomson.

### Commonwealth Fund Fellowships

THE Committee of Award of the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships announces the following elections, among others, for 1958-59. *General Fellowships*: C. Green, Liverpool (biochemistry); M. R. House, Durham (geology); T. W. B. Kibble, Edinburgh (physics); H. D. Law, North Staffordshire (chemistry). *Home Civil Service Fellowships*: D. L. Medd, Ministry of Education; J. F. Montgomerie, Ministry of Transport; D. W. G. Wass, Treasury; T. B. Williamson, Ministry of Health. *Oversea Civil Service Fellowships*: J. R. Harries, Kenya (medicine); A. H. M. Kirk-Greene, Nigeria (sociology).

### Institute of Metals: Officers

THE following have recently been elected to office in the Institute of Metals: *President*, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder (chancellor of the University of Cambridge; chairman, The Standard Motor Co., Ltd.); *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. G. L. Bailey (director, British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association); Mr. R. D. Hamer (vice-president, Aluminium Laboratories, Ltd.); and Sir Ronald Prain (chairman, Rhodesian Selection Trust, Ltd., Roan Antelope Copper Mines, Ltd., and Mfulira Copper Mines, Ltd.).

### University News:

#### Birmingham

THE following have been appointed to senior lectureships from October 1: Dr. G. E. Bioner (mathematical physics), Dr. J. C. Bevington (chemistry), Dr. J. G. Hawkes (botany), Dr. C. W. Nutt (chemical engineering), Dr. E. A. Marsland (dental pathology), Dr. G. H. Thomas (endocrine chemistry). The following have been appointed to lecture-