Fromm's Landing is not the only site on the Lower Murray which has been explored : there is the Devon Downs shelter, with which Fromm's Landing can be compared, and there are others. As is to be expected, there are differences in the finds, both implements and fauna, as one proceeds from the top layer to layer 10. But these differences do not appear to be startling. Actually the site is not prolific in artefacts, but adzes, 'pirri' points (small, somewhat thick-based arrow-head-like affairs), microliths of various kinds and bone objects have been collected, as well as the bones of various mammals, reptiles, birds and fish. Naturally, too, shells, both univalves and bivalves, occur. On the walls of the shelter there are some rough markings, but these are scarcely worthy of the designation 'art'. The article is illustrated and the numbers under each illustration of a tool refer to accounts of them given in the text. There are, however, several such accounts referring to numbers which do not appear among the illustrations. Has a page of illustrations by accident been left out ? The author is to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work. Should some of these habitation sites in Australia really date back to several thousands of years ago, it is high time geologists there took the matter up and determined a sequence of climate changes for the various areas in the continent. It is scarcely conceivable that no perceptible changes have taken place over so long a period. The correlation of such a climate sequence with the study of the stone industries from the various levels would mean an important addition to knowledge.

Birds of the Philippine Islands

It is known that the size of an island may be an important factor in determining certain characteristics of its avifauna. Recently, A. L. Rand and D. S. Rabor have directed attention to "a surprising but apparently very real phenomenon in the Philippines", namely, that species commonly restricted to higher altitudes may live at lower ones on small islands (*Fieldiana* : Zoology, **35**, No. 7, 221. Chicago : Chicago Natural History Museum, 1960. 4 dollars). Thus the fruit pigeon *Ptilinopus merrilli* is a mountain bird on Luzon, but lives at sea-level on the adjacent small Polillo Island ; and there are similar cases. The brush cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* is of special interest because it lives on the mountains of Zamboanga, a large island of which the lower levels are inhabited by the related *C. merulinus* ; on Siquijor (90 square miles) only *C. variolosus* is found, living far below what is regarded as its normal range. This observation may be considered with the known fact that there are species of wide distribution in south-east Asia which live only on small islands, the nutmeg pigeon *Ducula bicolor* being an example of this in the Philippine archipelago. The speculation is made whether a restricted montane habitat surrounded by lowlands may not in some way be equated to a small insular habitat surrounded by sea.

New Species of *Chaetacis* from South America

While working on collections of spiders in the British Museum (Natural History), Arthur M. Chickering of Albion College, Albion, Michigan, found numerous examples of the genus *Chaetacis* from South America. Chickering separated out specimens which appear to represent five new species, thus bringing the total number of known species to twelve. Two of the new species, which he describes in the August issue of *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (2, No. 20 ; 1959), are represented only by males which have not previously been described, although apparently Eugene Simon saw one when he established the genus in 1895. The types are to be deposited in the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History).

Measurement of Molecular Weights

An easy-to-operate device for the accurate determination of molecular weights of unknown materials in solution has been developed by R. A. Pasternak and Leonard A. Cavanagh, and is described in the November–December issue of *Research for Industry* (12, No. 6 ; 1960). This efficient analytical tool is also valuable for research on interactions of compounds in solution. The key to the instrument is a thermostatically controlled chamber, the atmosphere of which is saturated with the vapour of a solvent. A probe composed of two bead thermistors is enclosed. Drops of the solvent and of the sample solution are applied to the beads through one of the six syringe assemblies of the unit. At any given temperature the vapour pressure of a solution is lower than that of the solvent. Therefore, the solution drop warms up (by condensation of minute amounts of the solvent) until pressure balance between the two drops is attained. The temperature rise, detected by the thermistor probe, is about proportional to the 'osmotic concentration' of the sample solution. When the instrument is calibrated with solutions of known concentration, it is then possible to calculate the molecular weight of the unknown solution. The new instrument, which was developed for Mechrolab, Mountain View, California, has great advantages over present molecular weight devices. Because of the syringe assembly, it does not have to be opened after each sample. Indeed, duplicate readings can be taken on fresh samples within 1–5 min. An accuracy of 1–2 per cent is claimed. Moreover, only very small amounts of the sample are required for testing.

Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting of the Biochemical Society

The fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Biochemical Society is to be held during March 27–29, and will be centred on University College, London. The meeting will include a symposium and a memorial lecture. The symposium is to be on "Structure and Synthesis of Macromolecules" (March 27–28), and will be opened by Prof. F. G. Young (Cambridge). Among the other speakers are : Prof. P. Doty (Harvard) ; Prof. J. N. Davidson (Glasgow) ; Prof. E. L. Hirst (Edinburgh) ; Prof. W. Z. Hassid (Berkeley) ; Dr. M. F. Perutz (Cambridge) ; Prof. E. L. Smith (Salt Lake City) ; Prof. J. Monod (Paris). The third Hopkins Memorial Lecture will be given by Sir Hans Krebs, and is entitled "The Physiological Role of Ketane Bodies" (March 28). The annual general meeting and anniversary dinner will take place on March 29. Further information can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Dr. W. J. Whelan, Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

City of Liverpool College of Technology

It is announced that the following are to become honorary associates of the College : Mr. F. W. Adams (secretary and registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society