

try, or rather of chemistry in England—for the Browns are the only Englishmen in it—should be read by the younger generation of to-day. Two photographs show us the now unfamiliar features of Griess and of O'Sullivan.

Finally, Prof. Armstrong gives us his views on the best methods for promoting biological inquiry and on the research scheme of the Institute of Brewing. Much of what he says about this is of wider application, and bears on scientific research in general. His

views, expressed with great conviction, should be especially considered at the present time, when all kinds of new research schemes are being started. Some of us cannot always agree with Prof. Armstrong, but we must all recognise that, if provocative, he is stimulating; if a fighter, he is sincere. And he is also picturesque; he does not bore us. Hence this memorial lecture derives a personal interest from the author no less than from his subject, and thereby its value has been increased.

The Ancient and Modern Inhabitants of Malta.

AT a meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute held on June 28, Mr. L. H. Dudley Buxton read a paper on "The Ancient and Modern Inhabitants of Malta." The paper was a summary of the results of a small anthropological expedition from Oxford which visited Malta in the winter of 1920-21. The expedition was made possible by the generosity of Sir Alfred Mond and by a grant from the Mary Ewart Trust. The work in the island was offered every facility by the Governor, Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, and his staff, and Prof. Zammit, the Rector of the University, put his unrivalled knowledge of all things Maltese at the service of the expedition.

The history of Malta is bound up with its geographical position, lying as it does on a buttress of the old land bridge between Africa and Sicily. The cave of Ghar Dalam, which is being explored by Mr. Despott, may throw considerable light on man's early history in the island. At present, however, the earliest large collection of human remains belongs to the Neolithic, or more probably *Æneolithic*, age of the great Maltese megalith builders. Although this culture is, to a certain extent, unique, it offers possible comparison with the *allées couvertes* of Western Europe. The site of Bahria, which has not yet been properly excavated, may provide a link between the Neolithic and the Bronze ages, remains of which have been discovered actually on top of the Neolithic remains at Hal Tarxien. The following periods, the so-called Phœnician or Punic, show a close connection with North Africa—a connection which was not broken until the Roman occupation. At the division of the Empire in A.D. 395 Malta was allotted to Byzantium, to which it belonged ethnologically. It was held successively by the Arabs and by the various occupants of the throne of Sicily until handed over by Charles

Quint to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in 1530. The Knights held it until 1798, when they were dispossessed by Napoleon. It was occupied by the British in 1800, and formally annexed in 1814.

The megalith builders appear to belong to what is generally known as the Mediterranean race. They show close affinities to the inhabitants of North Africa and Sicily. Probably at the close of the Bronze age—but the exact line is as yet uncertain—a crucial change came over the population and a new type of folk appeared, the contour of whose cranial vault suggests Armenoid characters. In spite of the constant infusion probably of North African blood in Punic times and of Italian during later periods, this type has survived in the islands of Malta and Gozo until to-day.

A study of the modern people shows several remarkable facts: first, that though there are significant differences between the Maltese and the inhabitants of Gozo, there is practically no difference between the inhabitants of the urban and rural districts taken as a whole. The inhabitants of Valetta and the suburbs, contrary to expectation, do not show more variation than the country districts. Two villages, Zurrico and Siggewi, each taken singly, showed as great, if different, variations from the urban districts as did the men of Gozo from those of Malta, but here again the people of tiny and, to a large extent, endogamous villages were only slightly less variable than those of a cosmopolitan port.

It may be said then that, generally speaking, and subject to certain reservations, the Maltese present a well-marked racial type—unlike their nearest neighbours except in Neolithic times, and much more alien to the Cretans and the inhabitants of the "Islands of the Sea."

The Rothamsted Experimental Station.

VISIT OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEES.

ON Friday, July 15, representatives of the county agricultural committees and directors and principals of the agricultural colleges visited the Rothamsted Experimental Station at the invitation of Lord Bledisloe, chairman of the Lawes Agricultural Trust Committee, and Dr. E. J. Russell, director of the station. They were met by Sir David Prain, Prof. H. E. Armstrong, of the committee of management, and Messrs. T. H. Riches, Leonard Sutton, and other members of the Council of the Society for Extending the Rothamsted Experiments. No more representative party has visited Rothamsted since the great jubilee celebrations of 1893, after fifty years of work had been accomplished. The visitors inspected the plots and the laboratories, and saw practically the whole of the work which is being carried out.

The Rothamsted Experimental Station has expanded considerably during and after the war, and it now has

a permanent scientific staff of twenty-six members, in addition to skilled assistants for records, library, and office, and an outdoor staff for the farm and experimental plots. The scope of the work has expanded, and now includes the soil and the growing plant in health and disease. In the main the work falls into two great divisions, carried out respectively in the laboratories and in the fields, with the pot-culture house serving as a close link between them.

In welcoming the visitors Lord Bledisloe stated that this gathering was typical of many which it was hoped to arrange in future years, and its purpose was to make the work of Rothamsted known to those most intimately associated with the development of British agriculture. The most hopeful method of helping the farmer was to furnish him with knowledge about the crops and soils with which he has to deal, and to carry out tests which he could not possibly do for himself. Lord Bledisloe referred