

has proceeded, will remain in being, and the finds are to be handed over to the Corporation of St. Albans. The present investigations at St. Albans have occupied three years. The results, as was anticipated from the importance of Verulamium in the polity of early Britain, have been as fruitful as any ever obtained from a Romano-British site, and, in fact, have exceeded expectation. They fully justify the necessarily heavy expenditure; and a correspondingly heavy burden of gratitude is laid on the learned world to Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler and their assistants, as well as to the Excavations Committee and the Corporation of St. Albans, through whom they were made possible. While there can be no doubt that the means will be forthcoming for continuing the investigation in due season, an intermission, provided it be not too long, is by no means entirely a misfortune. These three years of excavation have produced a mass of material which demands a breathing space for its proper digestion.

#### Romano-British Pottery

A KNOWLEDGE of the names of the potters by whom the pottery found on Romano-British or British sites was made is obviously of great value to the archæologist in the interpretation of the ceramic evidence. If the site of the potter's factory is known, as it is in many instances, it serves to indicate the trend of cultural and commercial relations. Among the firstfruits of this season's excavations at Colchester has been the identification of names of two potters inscribed on the 'Samian' (Terra Sigillata) ware. Examples of these makers' ware had previously been found at both Colchester and Verulamium. There are, however, indications that evidence may be forthcoming pointing to a local factory, thus confirming the view that Samian ware was manufactured in Britain as well as imported. In the study of Samian ware, Dr. Felix Oswald's "Stamps on Terra Sigillata" (privately printed, 1931) is indispensable; but although every effort was made to make that list complete, additions, whether from excavation or from examples in museums, are bound to come to light from time to time. A considerable number of examples not recorded in Dr. Oswald's lists, though all by previously known potters, will be found in a "Catalogue of Potters' Stamps on Terra Sigillata found in Gloucester", by Mr. Charles Green, curator of the Gloucester Museum (Public Museum, Gloucester, Occasional Papers No. 1. Price 6d.), which has recently been issued by the Museum authorities. There are in all fifty-six specimens, ranging in date from Nero to Antonine. The pre-Flavian and Flavian stamps are all of South Gaulish potters. Thirty-nine come from central Gaul and three from eastern Gaul.

#### Archæological Exploration on Monte Alban, Mexico

A DISPATCH from Mexico City addressed to Science Service, Washington, announces that Señor Alfonso Caso, who is in charge of the exploration of the ruins on Monte Alban, Oaxaca, proposes in the coming season to open up the great "South Terrace" of the

acropolis, which is regarded as in all probability the most important part of the site. It has been left unexplored up to the present in order that the work may be carried out in the light of experience on the site. The acropolis is a tableland on top of the mountain, approximately a third of a mile long. The "North Platform" was explored last year. The "South Terrace", judging by the contours under the earth covering it, should be richer in remains than any part explored up to the present. Mounds superimposed upon mounds make this the highest point on Monte Alban. At the south-east corner is a mound with a hollow rotunda, which the late Mrs. Zelia Nuttall held to be an astronomical observatory, and considered the most important monument in Mexico in view of its relation to the calendar cultures of America.

#### South African Wild Flowers

AN exhibition of South African wild flowers is to be arranged under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society on October 24 and 25. This exhibition, which is to be opened by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, has been organised by an influential committee in South Africa and with the official patronage and co-operation of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London. A remarkable range of wild flowers, aloes and succulents, collected from twenty different districts in South Africa, has been dispatched, and the exhibition will provide the most representative and complete display of flora ever sent overseas from this Dominion. It will include many species of great beauty and rarity. Notable among the displays will be the remarkable variety of heaths, such as mealie heath (*Erica abietina*); dark-mouthed heath (*E. sacciflora*); red and yellow heath (*E. exurgens*); Walker's heath (*E. Walkeria*); pink drooping bell heath (*E. propendens*); riversdale orange-and-green heath (*E. blenna*); many varieties of everlastings; grasses; orchids; numerous varieties of proteas, such as woolly-bearded protea (*Protea bargigera*); giant or king protea (*P. cynaroides*); and the pin-cushion protea (*P. leucosperum*); specimens of bulbous plants, gladioli, succulents and aloes. The greatest care in handling and in the regulation of temperatures has been necessary in picking, packing and conveying these floral treasures from South Africa for their long journey of 6,000 miles to London. This in itself will make the exhibition noteworthy. The exhibition will be staged in the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in Vincent Square, S.W.1, at the same time as the Society's Orchid Show in the new Hall; tickets of admission to either display will permit of entry to both halls.

#### Electrical Accidents in 1932

THE report on electrical accidents in Great Britain for 1932 (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 4d.) is both interesting and full of useful information. The total number of electrical fatalities due to electricity last year was 70, of which 14 occurred in premises of a domestic character. It is stated that there are fewer