

period of magnetic activity, there was for several hours a complete dislocation in short-wave wireless communication between Great Britain and Canada. In point of fact, throughout the period, April 24–29, short wave communication was often impossible on this channel, other channels being variously affected but to a less extent. Cable and Wireless Ltd. also report during the same period frequent interruption due to earth currents in cable circuits operating between Great Britain and Newfoundland and vice versa. On the morning of April 28 between 1^h and 7^h and again from 10³/₄^h to 12³/₄^h U.T., the earth currents on this circuit were so severe that transatlantic communication by cable was impossible.

University of London's Institute of Archæology

ON April 29, the Earl of Athlone, Chancellor of the University of London, formally declared open the Institute of Archæology, housed for the present in St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, and unveiled wall-tablets to the memory of Mrs. Tessa Verney Wheeler, who was honorary secretary of the original Appeal Committee to collect funds for the foundation of the Institute, and of Mrs. Mary Woodgate Wharrie, a generous benefactor. The Chancellor was welcomed by Sir Charles Peers, chairman of the Committee of Management, and thanks were conveyed to him after the ceremony by the Right Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, who was First Commissioner of Works when St. John's Lodge, as Crown property, was allotted to the use of the Institute, and Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, director of the Institute. Arrangements have been made for the tenure of the present premises for a period of years; but it is hoped that eventually quarters for the Institute will be found among the University buildings in Bloomsbury near the Historical Institute and the Institute of Art.

It is usual on an occasion such as this opening ceremony to describe it as "epoch-making". In the present instance this term might be used with nearer approximation to the truth than is common. As was pointed out at the time, the proposal for an Institute of Archæology in the University of London was first made, the expansion of archæological investigation and the increased interest in the application of its results had made the provision of some such organization as a training ground a matter of urgency. As Sir Charles Peers said in welcoming the Chancellor, archæology, if one of the newest sciences, has the vigour of youth; and although in the nine years which have lapsed since the original proposal was formulated, progress towards meeting the requirements of archæological training may have seemed slow, it has been substantial. The Institute is already well on the way to providing in its library, its collections of antiquities and its training in methods of research the requirements which Sir Charles laid down as the minimum. Lord Athlone's reference to the present importance of Palestine in British field archæology not only emphasizes the value of the collection of Palestinian antiquities—the largest in existence outside Palestine—which the Institute

owes to Sir Flinders Petrie and the generosity of the British School of Archæology in Egypt, but also, by endorsing his support of the appeal for a chair of Biblical archæology, afforded convincing testimony that in saying he regarded the ceremony he had just performed as the laying of a foundation stone rather than as a formal opening, he was expressing something more than a conventional compliment.

Celtic and Saxon Art in Early England

THE exhibition of photographs of stone crosses and other forms of Celtic and Saxon sculptural art in stone now on view in the Iron Age Gallery of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) is an indication of the remarkable wealth of this material still surviving, which, in its mass, is something of a revelation even to the expert. The indefatigable labours of the late Romilly Allen, Baldwin Brown and W. G. Collingwood, the last-named more particularly in the north of England, have made known to archæologists the extent and value of this class of evidence, especially as afforded by the stone cross, in the interpretation of racial and cultural movement in the early historic period of Britain; but the work of the survey initiated by the Department of British Antiquities of the Museum some eighteen months ago, in which the assistance of the layman and amateur student has been enlisted widely, has brought together a record of examples of the various classes of this art in the form of photographs, which is surprising. As a whole, it is claimed, probably with justice, that this collection of examples of Celtic and Saxon sculptural art is the finest in existence.

SOMETHING of the work which already has been accomplished by the survey is shown in a selection of the photographs, primarily of the stone crosses, but also including fonts, tympana, capitals and the like. Geographically, the area covered is England, with the 'Anglian' crosses of southern Scotland; but selected examples from outside England are shown for purposes of comparison. The Isle of Man and Ireland, important areas which are a study in themselves, naturally are not included. Special features have been made of photographs by John and Mrs. Piper, who have made an extensive collection of photographs of Anglo-Saxon and late Romanesque sculpture, of a group of sculptures from the West Riding of Yorkshire by Mr. J. E. Tetley and of a regional survey of Cheshire and Staffordshire, which is illustrated by distribution maps and a map prepared in collaboration with the School of Geography of the University of Liverpool, showing relation to forest clearance and habitation in the eleventh century.

Armagh Observatory

DR. E. M. LINDSAY, at present an assistant in the Harvard Observatory in Bloemfontein, South Africa, has been appointed astronomer at Armagh Observatory. This Observatory was founded in the year 1791 by Richard Robinson, Baron Rokeby, Archbishop of Armagh and a great benefactor of the city of