

more intensive research into world economic problems than has hitherto been possible. Prof. Fisher is the first occupant of this chair, and will consequently inaugurate the new development in the Institute's activities which has been rendered possible by the recent generous gift of £20,000 made by Sir Henry Price for this specific purpose. Prof. Fisher, who was born at Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1895, has been professor of economics in the University of Western Australia since the beginning of 1936. He has contributed widely to periodicals dealing with economics, and has published two books, "Some Problems of Wages and their Regulation in Great Britain since 1918", and "The Clash of Progress and Security". Prof. Fisher hopes to take up his new post at Chatham House early in 1938.

Avebury

Two years ago, Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, then First Commissioner of Works, urgently directed attention to the necessity of taking steps by means of a planning scheme to preserve the surroundings of Avebury, constituting in their entirety, as he pointed out, the most imposing monument of prehistoric civilization in the whole world. He then expressed the hope that it would not be long before such a scheme was initiated. There is now a prospect that this hope may be fulfilled. A scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, has been prepared, which, if the necessary financial provision is made, will be put into operation before the main Wiltshire Planning Scheme, for the planning and preservation of the village of Avebury and its immediate surroundings. This scheme involves the prohibition of building in certain areas, and its restriction in others. The area covered by the prehistoric remains will be preserved for ever from building, and this, with the willing co-operation of the owner, also applies to the grounds and building of the Manor House, of which part dates from before 1548, part from the latter half of the sixteenth century. Over the main part of the downland, upon which the charm of the monuments and their appeal to the historic imagination so intimately depend, no new building will be allowed, except for agricultural purposes and necessary extensions of existing buildings, while the harmonious character of new cottages will be ensured and the planting of trees continued. To some small extent the village has encroached on the monument, but condemned cottages will not be re-erected. The agricultural character of the district will be preserved, and provision made for its future prosperity by the setting aside of adequate sites for new buildings.

This scheme will cost money. It is estimated that a sum of £11,000 will be required to meet the cost of compensation and other charges necessary to carry out the provisions of the scheme. Towards this, the sum of £4,000 already has been promised privately. An appeal for the balance is made by Sir Ernest Wills, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, the Marquess of Bath, chairman of the County Council, Sir Philip

Sassoon, First Commissioner of Works, Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, Lord Baldwin and others. The National Trust has undertaken to receive subscriptions and hold the funds for the purpose of the Scheme, which will be controlled partly by a special body composed of representatives of the County Council, the Rural District Council, the Parish Council, H.M. Office of Works, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society, and partly by the National Trust. In view of the number of prehistoric monuments of the first importance in the neighbourhood of Avebury—Windmill Hill, Silbury Hill, Overton Hill, the Avenue, the Roman Road, to name the most prominent only—the price of preservation is small, and the appeal should meet with a ready response from the public.

Mesolithic Site in Surrey

AN important mesolithic site consisting of a group of pit-dwellings has been excavated by Dr. J. G. D. Clark near Farnham, Surrey. It was discovered by Mr. W. F. Rankine, a local archæologist, and has been described as "without any parallel in this country". (*The Times*, July 20.) The pits are circular and some three feet deep by about twelve feet across. One of the dwellings shows the site of a hearth, in which the blackening by fire can still be seen. Several hundred microlithic implements have been found, as well as a fine pointed-butt axe or pick, about five inches long. It is suggested that the settlement may be dated at about 3000 B.C., that is towards the close of the Mesolithic period, to which Dr. Clark in his studies of the Mesolithic period in Northern Europe has assigned a dating of from 8000 B.C. to 2500 B.C., when the full-fledged Neolithic culture takes its place. It would appear that this find gives an entirely new conception of the character of the mode of life of the Mesolithic peoples, which here at least would appear to have entered on a more or less settled stage. Other sites previously investigated afford little or no indications of permanent habitations, the inhabitants having lived in shelters, wind screens or skin tents as did the prehistoric inhabitants of North America and the less advanced of the recent Indians.

Necessities of Scientific Training

IN his presidential address delivered at Harrogate on July 6 to the Society of Chemical Industry, Lord Leverhulme emphasized the value of a scientific training whether a man's business career is on the technical side of industry or not. Scientific method and the scientific habit of thought have an application far beyond the confines of technical research and technical processes, and Lord Leverhulme referred in particular to the importance and value of a scientific study of markets involved in market research and forecasting, as well as to the development of scientific methods of management commencing with the ideas and methods of Taylor. Referring to the synthetic production of an increasing number of our raw materials, he suggested that this development indicates an economic revolution, the proximity and

scope of which are as yet insufficiently appreciated and that the time is not far distant when man, largely independent of the accident of geographical or climatic environment, will rely very considerably on the chemist to provide substitutes. The chemist is a brilliant example of the truth that scientific research leads through the elimination of waste to the conservation of resources. In an age of industrial research directed to the production of immediately practical results, the question arises whether, in the highly developed sciences, we have gone too far in the direction of intensive scientific research with the object of gaining immediate benefits at the expense of more general research in the less developed sciences which might ultimately yield social benefits of no less value, though more remote. Lord Leverhulme suggested that if the law of diminishing returns operates in scientific research, it might well be better to devote more of our resources to the less developed and less immediately profitable sciences.

Chemistry, Past and Present

IN Prof. G. G. Henderson's absence, owing to the death of Mrs. Henderson, his medallist's address at Harrogate on July 6 to the Society of Chemical Industry, "A Retrospect of Chemical Science," was read by his colleague at Glasgow, Dr. D. T. Gibson. Prof. Henderson, an original member of the Society, who in 1888 was responsible for organizing the first annual meeting in Glasgow, reviewed developments in chemistry in the last sixty years, including present-day tendencies, and in referring to post-War advances in applied chemistry in Great Britain, commented on the increasing demand for the services of chemists not only by chemical industries but also by many other industries, and on the marked appreciation of the importance of chemical research. In particular, he referred to the importance of the contribution of the chemical engineer in the development of chemical industries, as indicated by the provision of facilities for his training, and the foundation of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and of the Chemical Engineering Group of the Society. The future prosperity of Great Britain, Prof. Henderson urged, largely depends on the support given to the progress of science and especially of chemistry, and in this matter a united profession is of the utmost importance if its influence on public opinion or on Government departments is to be effective. For this reason, he pleaded for generous support of the Chemical Council and the scheme for a Chemistry House, and in particular urged that important firms employing considerable numbers of chemists should do more to encourage their staffs to become individual members of at least one of the publishing societies.

"Applied Anthropology"

IN view of the frequency with which, it is now generally recognized, problems of administration among backward peoples are intimately bound up with matters of belief and custom, and give rise to problems of which the many ramifications cannot be understood, or perhaps even perceived, without

anthropological study, or upon which it may be necessary to seek the advice of the expert anthropologist, an announcement made by the Royal Anthropological Institute is both welcome and opportune. The Council of the Institute, it is stated, has appointed a Standing Committee on Applied Anthropology, which will meet at regular intervals for the discussion of problems of culture contact and the application of anthropological knowledge to the government of subject races. The Committee will seek to stimulate popular and official interest through the publications of the Institute, representations to Colonial Governments through the Colonial Office, and personal contacts with officials. It will also endeavour to further the organization and systematization of research in this field by means of discussion within the Committee and with experts engaged in research, and by promoting field-work according to a considered plan. A programme of typical questions affecting administration and upon which further research is desirable, has already been drawn up. In view of the wide connexions of the Institute and its close relations with those having expert knowledge in every part of the Empire, the work of the Committee cannot fail to be of the greatest utility in promoting a wise and enlightened policy in the administration of the affairs of the less-advanced races for whom the Imperial Government is responsible.

Need for the Study of Human Biology

IN an address at the celebrations of centenary of the University of Michigan on June 17, Prof. Raymond Pearl emphasized the necessity of evolving a science of human biology broad enough to synthesize our knowledge of man's mental and spiritual nature as well as of his physical nature if civilization is to survive. Our rapid advance in material things, while in wisdom and goodness little or no advance has been made, renders our development so lopsided as to threaten a catastrophe. The data for the unification of human knowledge do not yet exist, and one of the main challenges of the present situation to the man of science is that by natural aptitude and training he is the best equipped to obtain such data. Prof. Pearl believes that the universities, rather than specially founded independent institutions, offer the best environment for scientific research, and the achievements of the last hundred years encourage the belief that progress will continue.

The Bournemouth Outbreak of Typhoid Fever

THE report of the late Dr. Vernon Shaw, on his investigations into the outbreak of enteric or typhoid fever that occurred in Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch in August and September 1936, has been issued by the Ministry of Health (Reps. on Pub. Health and Med. Subjects, No. 81. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 9d. net). The outbreak was first brought to the notice of the Ministry on August 21, 1936, and Dr. Shaw began his investigations the following day. He was informed that thirty cases of enteric fever had been notified during the preceding