those found at Ipswich, with the pottery for which Mr. Reid Moir claims a palæolithic age, were found in an unworn condition in a gravel bed underlying alluvium and peat and resting on a glacial bed. On top of the gravel occurred a large number of scrapers of a type not hitherto recognized and showing marked eolithic characters. These were striated, presumably by floating ice or the movements of semi-frozen material, indicating that the implements, and therefore, presumably, the pottery, dated from before the last glacial manifestation; in other words, that both pottery and implements belonged to Upper Palæolithic times.

Meteorite Craters

THE crater-lake of Kaalijärv, one of the group of craters on the Island of Oesel off the coast of Estonia, has been described on several occasions since 1827, and many suggestions have been made as to its mode of origin. In 1927 and 1929 Mr. I. Reinvald, Inspector of Mines in Estonia, made a detailed survey of the craters with borings and trenches, and he was himself convinced of their meteoritic origin, although he was then unable to find any traces of meteorites at the locality. With remarkable persistence he has again returned to the work of excavation, and in July last he was rewarded by finding in the smaller craters, Nos. 2 and 5, thirty small rusted fragments of nickel-iron, which on a polished and etched surface show a characteristic though rather unusual type of structure. These remnants of the Kaalijärv meteorite finally settle the question of the meteoritic origin of these craters.

ANOTHER meteorite crater has been discovered by Dr. C. T. Madigan, lecturer in geology at the University of Adelaide, during his recent expedition in Central Australia. This was found on the Box Hole station by Plenty River, which is about 200 miles north-east of the famous Henbury craters. It has the form of a shallow basin measuring 200 yards across the rim. During the brief visit no meteoric iron was found on the spot. Another noteworthy discovery made by Dr. Madigan during this expedition is a large meteorite of the rarer siderolite (stony-iron) type, which was seen on the Huckitta station near the Hart Range, about fifty miles from the crater and with no relation to it. It measures 4 ft. 5 in. long and 20 in. high, and is estimated to weigh 2–3 tons. This is considerably larger than any stony-iron meteorite previously recorded, including the original pallasite (Pallas iron) of about 700 kgm. found in 1749 in the Krasnoyarsk district in Siberia.

Distribution of Raw Materials

AN important aspect of the problem of access to raw materials is the consideration of their position with regard to export. This, among other bearings of the question, is discussed by Prof. I. Högbom, in the report of the League of Nations Committee for the Study of the Problem of Raw Materials (Geneva: League of Nations. London: G. Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1937. 2*s*.). Prof. Högbom points out that for certain minerals, the bulk of which is great in comparison to their value, anything more than a relatively short distance from the sea is an almost insuperable bar to exploitation. The same is true of the cheaper and bulkier vegetable products. Thus for many forms of raw material the potential production of the great colonial areas of the interior of Africa and of certain sovereign States is not commercially accessible. Transport cost and not occurrence is the decisive factor in availability. Thus coal and iron ore, if mining for local ore is left out of account, can be economically produced only in Europe, North America, certain parts of the Far East and elsewhere only in a coastal strip some sixty miles in width. The same applies to phosphates. Mineral oil is profitably exportable within about a hundred and fifty miles from the coast. More valuable ores such as tin, copper, manganese and chromium ores can be mined over a much wider area. Prof. Högbom has illustrated these conclusions in a map incorporated in the report.

The Empire's Mineral Wealth

THE leading article in the September issue of *Sands, Clays and Minerals* develops the theory that the Empire can be made in Dr. Johnson's words "rich beyond the dreams of avarice" by economic development of known mineral resources and by systematic exploration of every country within the Empire for hitherto undiscovered deposits. It is no longer practicable to await accidental discoveries of valuable mineral resources: they must be looked for scientifically. Admittedly an exhaustive Imperial mineral survey is a Herculean task, but certain suggestions are made which should go far towards this ultimate aim. It is too great a task for any private concern or individual, or indeed for any Government. It must be undertaken corporately by geologists, metallurgists, economists, Government officials, and others equipped for different phases of the investigation, all of whom must take a share of executive authority. Aerial survey is the means by which information can be obtained on the resources of every country, but this should be conducted on a more scientific basis than hitherto. Present-day mining and metallurgical technique should at the same time be scrutinized and improved wherever possible on the advice of experts. Moreover, ancillary investigations of transport systems, market conditions, currency, tariffs, banking and finance in general, should be undertaken in order to provide a central body with all the information necessary to co-ordinate survey results. Finally, the technical education of the coming generation of geologists, chemists, mineralogists and industrialists, and of the mature worker in these fields should be broadened to give an imperial view-point of mineral resources rather than a restricted outlook on one part only.

British Museum (Bloomsbury): Recent Acquisitions

RECENT accessions to the collections of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) reported at the October meeting of the Trustees include a number of ethnographical