

to the harpoons of antler and bone previously found in Scotland at Oban, Oronsay and Kirkcudbright. The present find is figured in *The Times* of December 13.

Indian Cultural Studies at Oxford

WHILE the range and character of the collections of the India Museum at South Kensington will always give London a predominant position as a centre of Indian cultural studies, it should not be overlooked that the University of Oxford is not unconscious of its obligations in this direction. The report of the curators of the Indian Institute for the academic year 1937-38 states that during this period the museum has undergone a much-needed reorganization, thanks to a substantial grant from the Max Müller Memorial Fund and a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Spalding. The aim of the reorganization is not only to raise the character of the exhibits, but also to serve the needs of the studies carried on in the Institute, and more especially to stimulate interest in the antiquities and art of India. Among gifts and bequests, upon which the museum has to rely to a large extent, recent additions include a Buddhist shrine on loan from Mrs. Alexander Scott, which shows excellent specimens of the work of Newari and Tibetan artists, while Dr. Stella Kramrisch has lent a valuable collection of Hindu sculpture. Some interesting terra-cottas have come from the Royal Asiatic Society, and a collection of Siamese sculpture, the property of Dr. Reginald Le May, is especially instructive as a demonstration of the influence of Indian art and civilization on south-eastern Asia. Further facilities for the study of the cultural relations of south-eastern Asia will also be afforded members of the University by the valuable collection of Malayan books formed by Mr. W. W. Skeat, author of "Malay Magic", and, with Dr. C. Otto Blagdon, of "Pagan Tribes of the Malay Peninsula". This collection has been accepted by the University as a gift from Captain W. Ogilvy, by whom they were purchased for that purpose. Volumes additional to those purchased have been added by Mr. Skeat in order to enhance the value of the collection for anthropological students.

Cultivation of Plants without Soil

FOR many years it has been known that plants can be grown in nutrient solution culture, without soil, provided that the medium contains the necessary elements for growth in sufficient quantity. While this method is widely used in teaching and research work, it is only recently that attempts have been made to utilize it on the commercial scale, the idea originating in the United States. Considerable interest has been aroused by the apparent success of the methods employed in the United States, and an account of their four chief methods, namely, (1) solution culture, (2) sand culture, (3) sub-irrigation, and (4) drip culture, is given in the November issue of the *Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture*. Experiments carried out at the Jealott's Hill Research Station to determine the results of such methods under English conditions are also described. These latter tests were confined to tomatoes, and showed

that some varieties are more suited to solution culture than others. There is as yet no proof that yields are as good as those obtained under the best soil conditions; but it must be borne in mind that the method, as a commercial system, is still in its infancy. Advantages claimed for the method are the elimination of soil-borne diseases, the greater control over the type and amount of growth by judicious regulation of the culture medium, and reduction in manual labour. However, the cost of equipment is a heavy item and the technique is not yet fully worked out. The experiments are to be continued, the work being extended to other crops. The results will be awaited with interest.

Smithsonian Institution Anthropological Publications

A NEW departure in publication is a series of "Anthropological Papers" consisting of articles less extended in length than the usual report on the explorations of the Smithsonian Institution, which will be numbered consecutively, and will be collected from time to time in bulletin form as occasion requires. The first issue (*Bull.* 119; 1938) contains six articles, of which the first and most considerable is a preliminary report by Mr. A. R. Kelly on the first four seasons' work of excavation on mound sites in the Ocmulgee Basin near Macon, Georgia. These excavations were undertaken originally as a measure of unemployment relief under the Civil Works Administration. The site has yielded an unanticipated wealth of material, and exploration is still in progress. Cultural development here appears, so far as present knowledge goes, to be of an extremely localized type, in which a pottery of characteristically primitive appearance is associated with an unusual type of underground house and early evidence of agriculture. Whether this represents an archaic horizon in the south-east is a moot question; but at several points it exhibits generalized resemblances with regions geographically so far distant as the Great Plains and the south-west. The remaining papers deal with a pipe ceremonial of the Arapahoes (Mr. John M. Carter), the Caribs of Dominica (Mr. Douglas Taylor), a Sauk sacred pack (Mr. Truman Michelson), the physical therapy of Soshoni of Idaho, upon which Mr. Julian H. Steward reports, and a biographical account of an Owens Valley Paiute by the same author.

Scientific Publications in Japan

A THIRD edition of a "Catalogue of Foreign Scientific Serial Publications in the Various Institutions in Japan" has just been published by the National Research Council of the Department of Education, Tokyo. The general arrangement of the work is very similar to most Union catalogues, except that whilst other publications give the holdings of each institution and an abbreviation to denote if a set is imperfect, this volume gives full particulars of the actual parts, volumes or years lacking. This feature should be of considerable service to Japanese research workers by saving them fruitless journeys, particularly as the large number of imperfections listed suggests that the proportion of incomplete