

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Universities and War

APART from the University of London, the rest of the universities of the British Isles are aiming at carrying on their work at their present posts, so far as is possible. A few departments and faculties of various universities have, we understand, made tentative arrangements to move to other quarters; but at present no steps have been taken. Dates for the beginning of the new term have been changed in certain cases. The University of Liverpool is to carry on at Liverpool, though instruction in certain faculties and departments will also be given at Harlech College on Cardigan Bay. Accommodation in certain colleges in Wales has also been acquired by that university, and will be used if necessary. So far as can be ascertained, the University of London is making the following changes: Administration—Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green, Surrey; Examinations—Courleigh, The Cleves, Reigate; University College—Aberystwyth (men), University of Sheffield (women); King's College—University of Bristol; Institute of Education—University College, Nottingham; Imperial College of Science and Technology—University of Edinburgh (Mining Department—Camborne, Cornwall); Queen Mary College—King's College, Cambridge; London School of Economics and Political Science—Peterhouse, Cambridge; School of Oriental Studies—Cambridge; Bedford College for Women—Girton College, Cambridge; Westfield College—St. Peter's Hall, Oxford; Goldsmiths' College—University College, Nottingham. The medical schools of the University are being distributed among several centres in Great Britain.

Blood-group Tests of Paternity

THE House of Lords Select Committee, to which the Bastardy (Blood Tests) Bill was referred after its second reading in February last (see NATURE, Feb. 18, p. 294), has now made its report. It will be remembered that this Bill, which was introduced in the House of Lords in December, 1938, by Lord Merthyr, sought to enable courts of summary jurisdiction to order blood-group tests to be made in bastardy cases. The chairman of the House of Lords Committee was Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, and included among its members were Lord Dawson of Penn and the Bishop of Salisbury. The Committee gave it as its unanimous opinion that the qualities of blood underlying blood-grouping and the laws of inheritance governing the transmission of these qualities from parents to children are accepted by such a consensus of scientific opinion as to render it desirable in the interests of justice for this knowledge to be applicable to affiliation cases. After certain amendments, it recommended that the Bill be passed

into law. It was stressed by the Committee that although the tests can exclude paternity in about one case out of three only, nevertheless the tests might prevent injustice. The Committee was also satisfied that the risk of error in making blood-tests has been reduced to negligible proportions; and it noted that the public is becoming ready to accept the positive verdict of science when its evidence declares against the implication of paternity to a given individual. It is indeed remarkable—and the Committee commented on the fact—how great was the preponderance of opinion among medical and legal witnesses in favour of the use of blood-tests as evidence in affiliation cases; while, of such criticisms as were offered, none disputed the validity of blood-tests as evidence.

Blood Groups and Paternity

A FURTHER refinement in the use of blood groups as a test of paternity was indicated by Dr. V. Friedenreich of Copenhagen at the seventh International Congress of Genetics which was held in Edinburgh immediately before the outbreak of war. Dr. Friedenreich, as reported in the *Lancet* of September 16, described the division of the *A* group into three varieties; A_1 is dominant to A_2 and A_3 , and A_2 to A_3 ; A_3 is very rare. The distinction between A_1 and A_2 is already employed medicolegally on the Continent, thereby increasing the proportion of cases in which false accusations of paternity can be disproved. Reference to the important work of Dahr indicated a still further possibility of discrimination in that persons of constitution AA may soon be distinguished from those of constitution AO , a point of very considerable evidential value in the legal sense. From the anthropological point of view, the occurrence and distribution of groups *A* and *B* in both anthropoid apes and man constitutes a problem—so much so, indeed, that Dr. G. Montandon, of Paris, goes so far as to deny on this ground that it has any evidential value whatsoever as a criterion of race in man. Prof. Ruggles Gates, however, in a communication to the Congress at Edinburgh, argued that while gene *A* probably arose in the common ancestors of anthropoid apes and man, gene *B* in all probability arose much later by parallel mutation in both stocks.

Prehistoric Indian Village, New Mexico

AN expedition of the American Museum of Natural History of New York, under the leadership of Dr. Paul S. Martin, has been engaged in the examination and excavation of a number of Indian village sites in the mountainous region of western New Mexico. The villages are situated just off the route followed by the Spanish conquistador Coronado in his

unsuccessful search for the legendary wealth of the "Seven Cities of Cibola". According to a preliminary report from Dr. Martin, of which certain particulars have been issued through Science Service of Washington, D.C., there was little surface indication of the existence of any of the sites; and it was only the occurrence of scraps of Indian pottery, no larger than a thumb-nail, which directed the attention of the members of the expedition to one site which has been excavated. Even local pottery-hunters had failed to detect the existence of the villages. On this site the walls and floor of a large subterranean pit-house, presumably used by the inhabitants for ceremonial celebrations, has been uncovered. It measures 33 ft. in diameter, and is the largest of its kind hitherto excavated in this area. The objective of the expedition is the identification of sites belonging to the little-known Mogollon culture, one of the three cultural divisions into which American archaeologists now classify the prehistoric cultures of the south-west, preceding and leading up to the great development of the Pueblos. Dr. Martin reports that he has found important evidence relating to the age and development of the Mogollon culture. He estimates that the site excavated was abandoned seven hundred years before Coronado's expedition of about the middle of the sixteenth century.

Archæological Reconnaissance in Roman Scotland

ALTHOUGH by this time the value of the aeroplane in archæological investigation stands in little need of further testimony, a record of recent discovery in Roman Scotland not only renews, as it were, the wonder at its achievement, but also affords striking evidence of how its use, and intensive examination of a terrain from the ground itself, combine with and supplement one another. The occasion of the demonstration was a survey from the air made in June last by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, editor of *Antiquity* and archæological officer of the Ordnance Survey, to supplement previous work in preparation for archæological maps of Roman Scotland to be published by his department. The survey from the air was amply justified. It solved a number of knotty problems standing over from previous investigation, even after intensive field work, and in addition it added fresh data in the form of previously unrecorded native and Roman forts and fortlets, as well as a number of other discoveries of interest along the lines of the Roman roads in Annandale. Flying farther afield to the north, Mr. Crawford identified a Roman fort farther north of the Antonine Wall than any previously recorded, and on the return the modern method of reconnaissance was able to authenticate a site that has long been on record. Not only was it possible to make out the remains of rampart and road, both by observation and photograph, but also it can now be stated with complete certainty that it is a Roman fort, and further that a Roman road ran north-east from the gate in the rampart on that side of the fort—a fact of which certain implications for Roman dispositions in Scotland are made the subject of preliminary discussion in *Antiquity* of

September by Mr. Crawford in his account of the reconnaissance.

Medicine in Ancient Ireland

IN a recent address before the Irish Free State Medical Union (*J. Irish Free State Med. Union*, 5, 22; 1939) Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick stated that, like many other peoples, the Irish had a traditional god of healing, named Dianecht, who fitted the silver hand to King Nuada about the year 1272 B.C. According to the genealogies of MacFirbis, there were other physicians such as Eaba, the female physician, the second doctor who came to Erin, and Fingen, who was physician to Conchobha MacNessa, whose hand he sutured with golden threads to match his hair. There is also some evidence of medical education in the country, as Josina, the ninth King of Scotland, came to Ireland about the second century B.C. to study medicine. There were, moreover, numerous schools in ancient Ireland, such as those at Clonard, Armagh, Clanmacnoise, Monasterboice and Portuma, in all of which medicine was probably taught. The Brehon or Ancient Laws of Ireland, which according to tradition were written down about the time of St. Patrick but had been in force for some time previously, show that the status of the leech or physician was well defined. In an ancient law tract an elaborate account is given of "Othrus" or "Sick Maintenance", which enacted that a person who had received physical injury from another should be given by his assailant not only the ordinary legal fine but also certain medical expenses. The position of the leech corresponded with that of the smiths, builders, gold-workers and Brehons, who were all high up in the social scale. The fees were fixed and depended on the social position of the patient and the nature of the disease. In addition to medical schools there were also hospitals, such as the "House of Sorrow" attached to the Red Branch at Emania where sick and wounded persons were treated, and the "Forus Tuatha" or territory house which is mentioned in the law tracts as a sort of hospital. Dr. Kirkpatrick concludes that medicine in ancient Ireland was probably as well developed as in any other contemporary country in western Europe.

Alcoholism and Mental Disease

IN his inaugural thesis (*Thèse de Paris*, No. 489; 1939), which is based on his experience at the Lesuellec Psychiatric Hospital, Dr. André Le Gall deals with the subject of alcoholism and mental disease in the Morbihan Department of Brittany. He points out that during the period 1910-37, since when the number admitted to the hospital each year has remained almost stationary, the admissions increased from 149 to 335, while the percentage of alcoholic patients rose from 7.52 in 1920 to 44.77 in 1937. The consequence has been that the total number of patients under treatment at the hospital rose from 778 in 1920 to 1,474 in 1938. There has also been a considerable increase in alcoholism among women, as is shown by the fact that while in 1911 they formed only 18.90 per cent of the total number of alcoholics, in 1937 this figure rose to 43.33