

subject was "Physics in War". Prof. Oliphant stressed the value of academic science, which in present circumstances can be turned to practical use. Future development of industry depends on the academic development of science, which in Great Britain is conducted only in the universities. It is therefore essential that the country should encourage academic research in science if we are to keep any sort of supremacy in industry. So far, the War has been almost entirely a physicists' war, waged with weapons depending for their operation on knowledge gained by physicists.

Prof. Oliphant referred to the great value of the pioneer work done by Dr. Lanchester in aviation, to the work of Sir William Bragg and Lord Rutherford on the detection of submarines, and to the development of the high-class optical industry. 'Wireless' is proving to be the fundamental controlling factor in the present War, and perhaps, when it is over, the public will realize how great is the work done by physicists in this field. The control of the magnetic mine presents no difficulties to the physicist. Scientific and technical men sometimes complain that they have not been given any job, and that their talents are not being used. Some of this criticism is justified, Prof. Oliphant said, because in England there is a tendency to allow administrative offices to be filled only by persons with non-technical qualifications. He deplored the conclusion that is sometimes reached that because a man has technical qualifications he cannot discharge administrative duties.

### Censoring Scientific Journals

It is announced that, at the request of Sir Walter Monckton, director-general of the Press and Censorship Bureau, Sir William Bragg, as president of the Royal Society, has undertaken the formation of a scientific panel to assist the bureau in arranging the censorship of papers in scientific journals. The following have agreed to serve on the panel: Prof. C. R. Harington (biochemistry), Prof. V. H. Blackman (botany and agriculture), Prof. A. C. Egerton (chemistry), Dr. H. L. Guy (engineering sciences), Prof. P. G. H. Boswell (geology), Prof. S. Chapman (mathematics), Dr. C. H. Desch (metallurgy), Dr. C. G. Darwin (physics), Prof. A. V. Hill (physiology), Prof. F. C. Bartlett (psychology), Prof. W. W. C. Topley (bacteriology and pathology), Prof. M. Greenwood (statistics), Sir Guy Marshall (zoology).

### Animals and Plants of Use to Man

THE British Museum (Natural History) is now open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. A special exhibition has been arranged in the Shell Gallery to show the animal and plant sources from which some useful commodities come. This is too vast a field for the exhibition to be an exhaustive one, consequently only selected exhibits, illustrating commodities which lend themselves to attractive demonstration, are shown. These include the sources of certain textiles like linen, cotton, silk and rayon; plant and animal dyes used in commerce; the colouring matter and ingredients

of cosmetics; the sources of leathers and of bristles for brushes; the plants and animals which produce oil in large enough quantities for it to be valuable to mankind; and some of the uses of moulds and mushrooms. Several of the cases have a war-time interest; for example, animals of use in war, margarine, bacon pigs, pests of stored food. The object of the exhibition is to show the sources of certain commodities, and not to give a detailed explanation with examples of how the raw materials are worked up into the finished products.

### Discovery of a Royal Tomb in Egypt

A FURTHER discovery reported from San-el Hagar, the ancient Tanis, in the Nile Delta, promises results of even greater interest than those anticipated from the examination of the remarkable gold and silver sarcophagus discovered on this site by Prof. E. Montet, of the University of Strasbourg, in March of last year (see NATURE, 143, 512 and 552). When Prof. Montet returned to Egypt about a month ago to reopen his season's work on the tombs of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Dynasties on this site, he proposed to examine the sarcophagus which had been left unopened. The cartouche of Pharaoh Psusennes, identified with Sheshonk, had led to the attribution of the sarcophagus to that monarch; but in the course of the work of further examination, another tomb, it is reported (*The Times*, February 20) has been brought to light, which is thought to be the royal tomb, while the gold and silver sarcophagus is now said to be that of a royal priest. The newly discovered tomb contains a huge granite sarcophagus and a profusion of funerary ornaments. These consist for the most part of gold vessels, and include a gold cup in the form of a lotus, which is said to be of great beauty. This is the first royal tomb of the period (c. 1100-1000 B.C.) to be discovered; and it is of enhanced importance as belonging to a phase of Egyptian dynastic history of which archæologically too little is known.

### Statistical Methods and Ethnographical Observations

A NUMBER of attempts have been made from time to time to introduce statistical methods of analysis in the study of ethnographical facts, but certain obvious difficulties, more especially the artificial abstraction and the divorce of so complex an entity as an ethnographical fact from its cultural context, as a rule have militated against extended and continued application of these methods. Anthropologists, therefore, have watched with considerable interest the work of the Culture Element Survey of Native North-West America of the University of California, of which Prof. A. L. Kroeber is director. This survey was initiated as a result of an attempt to apply statistical methods of analysis to the recorded ethnographical data concerning the Indians of California by S. Klimek, who went to the University in 1933 as a Rockefeller Fellow.

The Survey has now become the most considerable example extant of the application of statistical technique to ethnographical observation. Prof.



Kroeber, in a progress report covering the work of the Survey to April, 1939 (*Anthropological Records*, 1:7, Culture Element Distributions, 11, 1939, University of California Press), records that between 1934 and 1938 twenty trips to indigenous groups of peoples were made by 13 different observers, who brought back 279 filled-in lists of elements. In these there are now at least half a million of particularized and localized items of cultural fact, or if the supplemental notes are included, the number may well be nearer a million. Although several monographs already have been published, the great bulk of this material awaits computation. Not only does this task seem beyond human capability as a practical method of comparative ethnographic study, but also Prof. Kroeber now records that experience in the field, as well as in the study, counsels a reversal of method, at least to a major degree, in a return to the observational records of the more orthodox ethnographer.

#### *Anglo Soviet Journal*

THIS new journal has been started with the purpose of supplying "the more scientifically skilled and specialized workers in the British Commonwealth with a regular flow of information, accurate and reliable, on the progress and developments that are being realized in the U.S.S.R., in their own field, the field which they understand best". Very wisely the first issue is largely devoted to accounts of exhibitions, particularly of the great Agricultural Exhibition held in Moscow last summer, which was unquestionably the most magnificent effort of its kind the world has ever seen. Dictatorships are based on propaganda, and the Russians are the acknowledged leaders of the world in this new art. The design of the Exhibition was coherent and logical: the products of each region were brought together into separate pavilions, and each of the chief products had also its own special arrangements for show. The architecture was impressive and striking: no one could possibly forget the huge statue at the gate or the tower just inside, or the beauty of some of the pavilions.

The visitors included parties of peasants, some in picturesque local costume from all parts of the Union; many of them saw their own photographs hung up as good workers who had achieved more labour days than their fellows. More attention was paid to records than to average performances. Special notice was given to the effort of two farm workers, Okhota and Chalova, in getting forty-one tons of sugar beet per acre (the average for England and Wales is about ten tons). How far the Exhibition reflects actual performance in the countryside cannot be determined, as no detailed statistics of yield or total production have been published so far as we know since 1935, though there are some figures for the bumper year of 1937: but that is not the question. A forecast is given of the results anticipated from the proposed Trans-Volga irrigation scheme which, if it matures, and is free from too much complication of water-logging and salt, should produce food in a region where but little is grown now.

#### France's Colonial Problems

IN an address on "The Establishment of an Imperial Economy" (*Bull. Soc. d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale*, October 1939), M. E. du Vivier de Streel discusses the dependence of France on her colonial resources. He stresses the importance of science and technology in colonial development and the necessity of placing larger resources at the disposal of scientific organizations and technical men for the investigation of colonial problems, whether in improvement of agriculture, the prevention or control of disease, or the opening up of mineral resources. Such work should not be left precariously at the mercy of any local drive for economy. M. du Vivier de Streel refers also to the importance of population questions, education and a policy of public works, but while covering briefly much the same ground as the "African Survey" of Lord Hailey, he makes no reference to that outstanding work.

#### Studentship for Psychical Research

TRINITY COLLEGE, Cambridge, has established a studentship for the study of psychical research, out of a bequest left to the College for that purpose by Mr. F. D. Perrott as a memorial to F. W. H. Myers. Psychical research is defined, for this purpose, as "the investigation of mental or physical phenomena which seem *prima facie* to suggest (a) the existence of supernormal powers of cognition or action in human beings in their present life, or (b) the persistence of the human mind after bodily death". The studentship is open to any person who shall have completed his or her twenty-first year at the time when the election takes place. The studentship is tenable for one year, but a student may be re-elected once, but not more than once. The studentship will be of such value, not exceeding £300, as the electors may award after considering the nature of the research which the candidate proposes to undertake. Further information can be obtained from Prof. C. D. Broad, Trinity College, Cambridge.

#### January Earthquakes Registered at Kew

DURING January 1940 thirteen earthquakes were well registered by the seismographs at Kew Observatory. The largest of these were on January 6 at 14h. 23m. 2s. and January 17 at 1h. 33m. 24s., though a doubtful phase preceded this at 29m. 35s. This latter shock was registered at De Bilt (Holland) at 33m. 16s. G.C.T., and the shock of January 26 was also well observed there. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association has determined the epicentre of the earthquake of January 6 to have been lat. 22° S., long. 170° E. with initial time 14h. 3·4m. G.C.T. This determination was based on observations of seismograms obtained at Georgetown, Sitka, Apia, Honolulu, Pasadena, Fordham, San Juan and Manila. The provisional epicentre was in a well-known seismic zone of the Pacific Ocean to the east of the island of New Caledonia. The earthquake of January 17 was found by the same authority on the basis of