

which had developed, in the main, on the American continent, though the roots might be Asiatic; he thus emphasized here again the importance, in his view, of cultural evolution in America. He believed that there were cases of similarities between peoples, due not to borrowing but to psychological factors working parallel to one another. He would, however, have nothing to do with necessarian theories. Totemism, for example, seemed to him to be a term covering a wide range of associated ideas and customs; but neither are the widespread similarities proof of a unitary origin, nor is totemism a necessary expression of thought of a particular stage in human evolution. After suggesting that the Northern Kwakiutl of the Northern Pacific were in a stage of transition from mother-kin to father-kin, he later went over to the opinion that from a father-kin system they were influenced towards a mother-kin scheme and division into totemic clans by borrowing from more northerly neighbours. Sir James Frazer held that the facts agree better with Boas's earlier view.

Deeply aware of the interdependence of all aspects of human life and work, Boas felt that as a teacher he could not easily neglect any. We thus have his comments and contributions in several fields. He thought of primitive art as arising from technical execution and also from the stylized expression of emotions and thought. Stylization seemed to him to give a measure in this field of work, provided it is understood in its broader sense of controlled form. He disagreed with the theory that geometric ornament develops through degeneration of perspective, or symbolic designs because of slurring and inaccuracy; and he emphasized the borrowings of forms and the changes in their interpretation as they pass from one people to another, or from one generation to another. Among one and the same people there may be two or more distinct styles, especially if these are associated with different industries carried on by distinct sections of the group. The desire for artistic expression, in his view, is universal.

In the field of physical anthropology Boas concerned himself to show the rapid mutability of head form, and he published elaborate statistics concerning descendants, of even the first generation, of immigrants from Europe to the United States of America. Some anthropometric workers accepted his conclusions, but some found difficulties in his analysis of the measurements he gathered; and it may be said that mutability of a rapid type is by no means a general feature, if it ever occurs, which is doubtful.

Boas's broad knowledge of material culture, linguistics, social organization, religious ideas and physical characteristics of human groups gave strength and cogency to his fiercely valuable attack on Nazi racism, and on all attempts to trim and distort scientific truth to suit dogmatic schemes in politics or in any other field of expression. He is one of those who have enriched the knowledge and understanding of mankind in more ways than can be specified by giving a list of special discoveries or theories or publications.

H. J. FLEURE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. George Washington Carver, director of the Research and Experimental Station and consulting chemist at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, the distinguished Negro botanist, aged eighty.

Prof. R. G. Collingwood, F.B.A., late Waynflete professor of metaphysical philosophy in the University of Oxford, on January 9, aged fifty-three.

Dr. C. Tate Regan, F.R.S., lately director of the British Museum (Natural History), on January 13, aged sixty-four.

Dr. Nikola Tesla, the well-known electrical engineer and pioneer of radio telegraphy, on January 7, aged eighty-five.

Prof. Arthur Willey, F.R.S., emeritus professor of zoology in McGill University, on December 26, aged seventy-six.

NEWS and VIEWS

An American Steam-Boat Pioneer

ON January 21 occurs the tercentenary of the birth of John Fitch, the American pioneer of the steam-boat, who while other inventors were struggling with costly and inconclusive experiments built several working steam-boats, formed the first steam-boat company in the world and for a period carried passengers on the Delaware according to a time-table. Fitch was born at East Windsor, Conn., and after working on his father's farm, pursued various callings, including those of a brassfounder and a silversmith. He suffered many misfortunes, made an unhappy marriage, and during the War of Independence was taken prisoner. In 1780 he became a surveyor in Kentucky and later on took to map-making. On a journey in 1785 he conceived the idea of propelling vehicles and boats by mechanical means. Quickly visualizing the value of his ideas, he made models and drawings, secured favourable opinions from public men and during the years 1786-90 made three or four boats which ran with varying success on the River Delaware. In 1791 a French patent was secured and two years later Fitch visited France to

further the exploitation of his invention in Europe. The Terror, however, was then at its height and he soon returned home, having exhausted his means. From that time onwards he strove unsuccessfully against an unkind fate, and died at Bardstown, Kentucky, in 1798, at the age of fifty-three. His merits have not gone unnoticed in the United States, and in 1926 Congress erected a memorial to him where he died.

Pamphlets in War-time

AS in the War of 1914-18, so in this one, pamphlets are much in evidence. There is a saying of John Selden, who flourished in the seventeenth century, that "more solid things do not show the complexion of the times so well as ballads and libels". By "libels", however, Selden meant what we mean by pamphlets, for, as Archbishop Trench remarked, the extent of meaning which a word covers is often gradually narrowed. Any little book (*libellus*) was a "libel" once; now, only such as is scurrilous or injurious. The truth of Selden's saying is seen in the fact that pamphlets were plentifully produced until