

burgh); Mr. C. S. Mundy (University of London); Dr. Melville Richards (University of Liverpool); Mr. G. B. Thompson (Ulster Folk Museum); Mr. D. M. Wilson (British Museum).

Membership is open to all individuals and institutions interested in the study of the traditional patterns of life both in rural and urban communities. Although various bodies such as the Folklore Society, the British Agricultural History Society and several other societies are each interested in particular aspects of folk-life and social history, this new Society to cover the complete field fulfils a long-felt need. It can serve as a focus for the activities of those individuals, amateur and professional alike, who take an interest in their native culture. In addition to holding an annual conference at various centres in Great Britain and Ireland in turn, the Society will also publish its own journal. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, c/o Welsh Folk Museum, St. Fagans, Cardiff.

### The Mankind Quarterly

A RECENTLY published new journal seems to be devoted to the promotion of the idea of the basic significance of the biological endowment of human races in determining psychological and cultural characteristics (*The Mankind Quarterly: An International Journal dealing with Race and Inheritance in the Fields of Ethnology, Ethno- and Human Genetics, Ethno-Psychology, Racial History, Demography and Anthro-Geography*. Vol. 1, No. 4, April 1961; Vol. 2, No. 1, July-September 1961. Edinburgh. 6s. each). It presents some descriptive articles, for example, on the Kurumbas and Todas of the Nilgiri Hills of South India (by Ruggles Gates) and on Bantu facial conformation (by J. D. J. Hofmeyr and H. Hitzeroth), and some cautiously analytical ones, for example, on "the cultural hypothesis" of mental types (by Gutorm Gjessing). But most of the contributions argue strongly that there is a close relation between innate physical and mental racial characteristics. In various contexts it is stated: that there is a genetic predilection for certain cultural forms; that there is a significant correlation between the occurrence in ancient times of "the Aryan speech" and the peoples of largely Nordic strain; that within any society an intellectually *élite* group tends to maintain its genetic superiority through selective mating. The "equalitarian dogma" of Negro aptitudes—as illustrated by Gunnar Myrdal's work—is attacked, and it is implied that social segregation of the Negro in the United States would be a proper course. The material in this journal is of very uneven quality and it is unreliable as a guide for students.

### The South Australian Museum

MUSEUMS in many places are, at the present time, undertaking extensive re-organization schemes. The report of the Board of the South Australian Museum for 1959-60 is yet another example of this world-wide movement, and it is only labour and finance which dictate the speed of these transformations (Pp. 16. Adelaide: Government Printer, 1961). The activities of the Museum include television broadcasts, a display of Australian wild flowers at the Adelaide Festival of Arts and an extensive programme of field work both in archaeology and natural history. A rather unusual feature is the formation of an underwater research group, the members of which have

collected marine invertebrates and have been especially successful in stupefying fish by means of the distribution of rotenone in the wreckage of a ship lying in 50 ft. of water. The fish are collected in nets by the aqualung divers. Members were fortunate in being able to observe and capture two specimens of the rare leafy sea-dragon, *Phycodurus eques*.

### Neurology of Language

IN a wide-ranging review of the neurology of language, Sir Russell Brain shows how difficult it is to infer from cases of aphasia the physiological organizations underlying speech (*Brain*, 84, Part 2; 1961). He also shows the inadequacy of purely psychological classifications of aphasia and of the attempt to correlate disturbances which can be classified psychologically with lesions in particular situations. The physiological organizations on which speech depends are of great complexity, extending over considerable areas of the brain, and are organized in time as well as in space. These serve psychological functions, but the breakdown of a physiological schema does not necessarily, or indeed usually, disturb speech in a way that corresponds to a single type of psychological defect. Moreover, the anatomical organization of the schemas means that only rarely will a single type of schema be disturbed in isolation from others. What the clinician calls aphasia is almost always the product of a mixture of physiological disturbances resulting in a complex medley of psychological disabilities. For the present, the classification of the aphasias must be largely empirical. The task for the future is to use all the available modern methods of psychological testing, linguistics, phonetics and communication theory, to correlate psychological with physiological functions. Already the directions in which progress is likely to be made can be seen. From a number of investigations it is hoped to arrive at an analysis of speech disturbances at both the psychological and physiological levels, and of their interrelationships, which will provide a scientific basis for the recognition of the type of disorder of function present in each individual aphasic patient.

### Immunization against Disease

THE subject for discussion at the Thirteenth World Health Assembly in 1960 was "The Role of Immunization in Communicable Disease Control". A recently published volume contains the introductory address of the chairman, Prof. Zhdanov of Moscow; papers on the background of immunization, by Prof. Cruickshank of Edinburgh, and the efficiency of immunization procedures used in public health practice by Prof. Edsall of Harvard; there is also a paper on compulsory or voluntary vaccination, by Dr. J. de Moerloose of the World Health Organization, and finally, the report of the technical discussion (*The Role of Immunization in Communicable Disease Control*. Various authors. World Health Organization: Public Health Papers. No. 8, 1961. Pp. 118. Price 6s. 8d. Also published in French. Available through H.M.S.O.). There are nowadays so many vaccines and immunization schedules that the average practitioner is understandably bewildered and uncertain which to use and when. This small volume contains authoritative and up-to-date views on the value of the various vaccines, and the pros and cons of immunization as well as the most suitable times for vaccination.