

Recent Events

The Editor is not always able to verify information taken from the daily press and other sources and cannot therefore assume responsibility for it.

On a rock near a dolmen in the department of Charente Inférieure has been found a sculptured hand with some of the fingers missing. (*Bull. Soc. préh. franç.*, January 1932, xxix, 62).



With reference to the 'coin-in-the-slot' machine referred to on p. 111 of our last number, Sir George Macdonald writes:—'Your contributor will find a description of it in Heron of Alexandria, Πνευματικά, I, 21. The passage is reproduced, along with an excellent diagram, in Wilamowitz-Moellendorf's *Griechisches Lesebuch*, 2^{te} hbd, p. 261. The principle is, I believe, identical with that of modern "penny-in-the-slot" contrivances'.



Slum-clearance in Exeter has led to an effort to recover the plan of Roman Isca. Preliminary work has been done, and to continue it on a larger scale money only is required. Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer, Rear-Admiral F. B. O'Dogherty, Old Fairfield, Chudleigh, Devon.



We learn, through the good offices of one of our readers, that the ancient harbours of Carthage are in a sorry state. Situated in the middle of the modern village of Salambo, they no longer function as in ancient times; indeed their size is so small that one wonders how they can ever have held the multitudinous craft that frequented them. Now they have become no more than a cess-pool for the adjacent houses; and when we are told that in summer they become nearly dry, we can understand that their annihilation is demanded by residents. Two courses are open—to fill them up or to restore their connexion with the sea; and we hope that, in spite of the expense, the latter course may be adopted. Their historic interest is great; nor is it unlikely that,

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in the process of clearance, valuable archaeological discoveries will be made. Surely there must be at the bottom of them a host of valuable objects lost overboard in ancient times? The Tunis Museum has already been enriched by submarine discoveries (see *ANTIQUITY*, 1930, IV, 405, 408) and here is a chance of yet further riches.



Great success has attended the excavation of Mintarno in Central Italy, on the Gulf of Gaeta. Let us hope that it will be crowned by a speedy and adequate publication of results. Amongst the buildings revealed are the following:—Remains of an Augustan period temple; an Italiote temple of the period of Sulla with a great and mostly intact sanctuary wall; a second century A.D. water-clock or fountain; the Appian Way in its unbroken and original progress through the town, with cross streets, man-holes, and sewers all perfectly intact; a stretch of fourth century B.C. fortification wall of stone in opus quadratum; an adjoining still earlier wall of polygonal construction, and at the point of junction of these walls a massive tower of the Augustan age; two buildings in the temple area of fourth and third century B.C. construction; another part of the city wall going back to the fifth century B.C.; a colonnade of the fourth century B.C.; three temples of the third and first centuries B.C. and the first century A.D.; an elaborate nymphaeum of the time of the Emperor Hadrian; and the arcade, proscenium, and orchestra pit of the theatre. (*Glasgow Herald*, 25 January).



A copper celt (axe) has been found at Ipplepen, Devon, in digging the foundations for some new houses. (*Devon & Exeter Gazette*, 1 February 1932). A similar find came to light recently on Hazel Down near Longstock Park, Hants. (*Antiq. Journ.*, XII, 70, 71).



A branch of the Edinburgh League of Prehistorians has been formed at St. Andrews. In the course of an address at the inaugural meeting Professor Gordon Childe referred to 'Gaulish walled forts near Abernethy and Forgandenny [which] were proofs of a hitherto unsuspected landing of Celts about 250 B.C., who must have sailed direct from Gaul without passing through England'. (*Glasgow Herald*, 6 February).

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In our last number we referred (p. 95), with all reserve, to the alleged authentication of the Pleistocene age of the Oldoway skeleton. We did not conceal our doubts, and they are evidently shared by Professors D. M. S. Watson, of London University, and C. Forster Cooper, of Cambridge University. In a letter to *NATURE* (27 February) they adduce reasons in support of their 'conclusion that the Oldoway man reached the position in which he was found by an artificial and probably a relatively recent burial'; and they challenge the original discoverer and his associates to explain the grounds on which they based their opinion.



The importance of the alleged great age of the skeleton lay of course in the fact that it is in every way a specimen of modern man (*Homo Sapiens*); and it would be by far the oldest representative if the claim were substantiated. As it is, it looks as if Oldoway man would go the way of his predecessors of Galley Hill and Ipswich—the way that leads from the main hall to the cellar of the museum.



Dr L. H. DUDLEY BUXTON writes:—'Professor Dreyer of Grey University, Bloemfontein, South Africa, has reported in a South African paper an ancient human skull of uncertain geological age but in a complete state of fossilization. The short face, well developed chin and very large mandible are in Professor Dreyer's opinion in no way primitive. The cranial features are however extremely abnormal, being rather within the range of microcephalic idiots than of normal human beings. The estimated cranial capacity is below 900 cc. It is probable therefore that we are faced either with a pathological specimen or else with a hitherto unknown type of man. It is hardly possible from a brief description and a bare outline to form any definite opinion one way or the other, and a full description of the specimen will be awaited with great interest. It is not necessary to remind readers of ANTIQUITY of the great importance of finds made in South Africa in the last few years and it is most satisfactory to know that Professor Dreyer, who has described the skull mentioned above, has recently made extensive finds of human remains in the Matjes river shelter associated with a variety of cultures from Mossel Bay through a not quite typical Smithfield to examples of the Wilton type'. A paper on these skulls was read at the Royal Anthropological Institute by Sir Arthur Keith on 8 January last (*The Times*, 9 January 1932).

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The band-keramik village outside Cologne is yielding most interesting plan-results. A narrow trench has been discovered dividing the enclosed area into two unequal portions. Future work will, it is hoped, determine whether the smaller of these was for cattle ; since a pond has already been found in it, this seems highly probable. The domino-like arrangements of, usually, nine post-holes are explained as the supports of granaries. It was necessary to raise wheat above the ground to preserve it from decay, and, we may add, mice and rats. Similar raised granaries were found by General Pitt-Rivers in the Romano-British village of Rotherley. (*Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, II, 55).



We wish the excavators the best of luck, and hope that this exceedingly well conducted excavation will be carried to a successful conclusion. A complete plan of one village will be a great achievement. *Finis coronat opus*. (Dr Werner Buttler in *Forschungen und Fortschritte*, 20 February 1932, 65-67 ; see also *ANTIQUITY*, 1931, v, 227-9).



On page 498 of our December number (no. 20) we referred to Miss D. A. E. Garrod's excavations ; these were carried out by her on behalf of the British School of Archaeology jointly with the American School of Prehistoric Research (C. G. MacCurdy, Director). We regret that, in our original reference, we omitted to mention the name of the American School of Prehistoric Research. The omission was, it need hardly be said, purely inadvertent. On account of the ramifications of research organization it is not always easy to avoid errors of this kind when one is reporting archaeological news, but we sincerely regret the oversight.



The excavations at Salmonsbury, near Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos., will be resumed this summer if sufficient financial support is forthcoming. We cordially recommend these excavations to our readers as worthy of their support ; a preliminary report on the first season's work will be found in *ANTIQUITY* (December 1931), v, 489-91. Contributions should be sent to Mr E. W. Kendall, Hon. Treasurer, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos.



The ninth annual interim meeting of the Anglo-American Historical Conference will be held at the Institute of Historical

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Research, Malet Street, W.C. 1., on Friday, 1 July 1932. The Continuation Committee will present their report at 2.30 p.m., after which Professor J. L. Myres, of the University of Oxford, and Professors H. J. Fleure and E. F. Jacob, of the University of Manchester, will open a discussion on 'The Relations between Historians, and Geographers and Archaeologists'. There will be an informal gathering at the Institute at 8 p.m. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute.



Excavations have been continued at Nineveh under the direction of Dr R. Campbell Thompson, who reports to *The Times*, 11 April (p. 8) on the results. The most important work was digging a pit about 90 feet deep to virgin soil through five strata. The usual polychrome pottery (dated by the finder at about 3300 B.C.) was found in the uppermost stratum; the second contained fragments of polychrome ware claimed to be many centuries older.



The Viennese Academy of Sciences and the Egyptian Museum of Stockholm have completed the excavation of the neolithic settlement at Merimde, near Beni-salame, about 32 miles northwest of Cairo, the results disclosing much which concerns the life, customs, and crafts of the ancient inhabitants. (*The Times*, 15 March, p. 13).



As the result of discoveries in the Wady Ghazzeah (Gaza) Sir Flinders Petrie reports some interesting customs associated with the introduction of the horse into Egypt and Palestine. (*The Times*, 25 February, p. 10).



A useful summary of important objects of antiquity added to the Italian Museums during the 10 years of the Fascist régime is published in *The Times*, 8 April, p. 12. They have been arranged, with other exhibits, in the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome.



An expedition from Yale University under the leadership of Professor Hellmut de Terra, research associate in geology, is to explore the Himalaya and Western Tibet for evidence of the theory that Man originated in Central Asia. (*The Times*, 19 April, p. 17).

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The discovery of a 'Celtic' farm-pond near the top of Nore Hill, Eastham, Sussex, is described in some detail by Mr S. E. Winbolt. (*The Times*, 19 April, p. 19).



A report on recent additions to the Cairo Museum is printed in *The Times*, 19 April, p. 13, the most important being the Tutankhamen finds. There are also some funerary remains from a cemetery at Kostol, on the east bank of the Nile, where the Egyptian Government Survey, under the direction of Mr Emery and Mr Kirwan, have done some useful work in the huge tumuli of early Byzantine times.



The Rome correspondent of *The Times* has received a report from Dr Luigi Ugolini, leader of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Italy, on his work at Butrinto, Albania, where attention during the past season has been given to the completion of the excavation of the theatre. The auditorium and the orchestra date to the fourth century B.C. The stage, which is in excellent preservation, is of Roman construction and rests in part on the remains of the Greek original. Many inscriptions, and some good statuary have been found. (*The Times*, 19 April, p. 13).



The discoveries on the site of the Roman amphitheatre at Chester were described recently by Professor Newstead in a broadcast talk, the substance of which is given in *The Times*, 18 April, p. 9. The date of the structure as shown by the pottery is placed towards the end of the first century A.D. We cordially support the appeal which is being made for funds to preserve it.



Dr H. Frankfort, Director in Iraq of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, writes to *The Times* (26 March, p. 15), on new evidence of intercourse between India and Babylonia shown by a seal found at Tell Asmar, the site of ancient Eshnunna, about 50 miles northeast of Baghdad. Dr Frankfort states that the seal is without parallel among known cylinders. Certain peculiarities connect the seal definitely with the Indus civilization and there is no doubt it is an importation from the Indus Valley which reached Eshnunna about 2500 B.C.