

kimo country only a few months after Stefansson in 1910 (see *My Life with the Eskimo*, by V. Stefansson, p. 258) has reported finding the ruins of houses made of earth and wood on southwestern Victoria Island. Jenness concludes that this is a sporadic occurrence and attributes it to a visit from the western Eskimos. Thus Jenness evidently assumes that the people from whom the present Copper Eskimos are descended never had wooden houses.

In 1919 A. H. Anderson found earth and wood houses on Cape Krusenstern and at various places in Coronation Gulf. Lastly, I have (during the years of 1917-1921) found ruins of the type of earth and wood houses used in Alaska and the Mackenzie River at intervals along the shores of Coronation Gulf to the above-mentioned Point Agiak. I also have accurate Eskimo information about the location of a village of the same type on the coast of Melville Sound due south of Kent Peninsula. Thus we find houses of wood and earth as far east as West Longitude 107°. For reasons which I cannot go into here, I consider it likely that future investigations will show a continuation of this chain of ancient earth and wood dwellings most if not all the way to Atlantic and Hudson Bay waters.

As it seems to differ from that of some other investigators, I want to record here the opinion (based on my studies in Coronation Gulf) that the present Copper Eskimos, who have no pottery and use no wooden houses, are in the main at least descendants of the earlier inhabitants who used pottery and wooden houses. My view is that the present culture (characterized in part by stone pots instead of pottery, and snowhouses instead of wooden houses) has been gradually evolved partly because the previous culture was never as well suited to the local conditions as the present, and partly because the local conditions have changed somewhat. One important feature of the change has been the lessening importance and eventual abandonment of whaling. My work shows that whaling was formerly practiced in certain parts at least of the Copper Eskimo country.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

At the annual general meeting of the British Institute of Physics, held on May 23 in the rooms of The Royal Society, the following officers and board were elected to serve for the year beginning October 1, 1922: *President*, Sir J. J. Thomson; *past president*, Sir R. T. Glazebrook; *vice-presidents*, Sir Charles Parsons, Professor W. Eccles, Professor C. H. Lees, Mr. C. C. Paterson; *non-official members of the board*, Dr. R. S. Clay, Professor C. L. Fortescue, Professor A. Gray, Major E. O. Henrici, Sir J. E. Petavel, Dr. E. H. Rayner, Sir Napier Shaw, Mr. R. S. Whipple; *representatives of participating societies*—Physical Society, Mr. C. E. Phillips, Mr. F. E. Smith; Faraday Society, Mr. W. R. Cooper; Optical Society, Mr. John Guild; Röntgen Society, Dr. G. W. C. Kaye; Royal Microscopical Society, Mr. J. E. Barnard.

The annual report stated that there were 408 members of the institute at the end of the year, of whom 258 were fellows.

The institute is watching the possibility of establishing a central library for physics, although the financial difficulties in the way of its realization are stated to be considerable.

In the course of his presidential address Sir J. J. Thomson, after dealing with the project to establish a *Journal of Scientific Instruments*, spoke of the present depression in industry, but he made the reassuring statement that out of 67 students who graduated with distinction in physics and chemistry in 1921, 46 had obtained suitable positions, while 14 were doing research work. He hoped that the series of lectures on physics in industry which had been established would act to some extent as "refresher courses."

Speaking of the difficulties which the safeguarding of industries act had, in many instances, placed in the way of research, he characterized research itself as a "key industry" and he hoped that the government would put every facility in the way of research workers being able to obtain without delay the apparatus they required.