

of distinguishing ice and land from the air, the existence of these channels still awaits confirmation.

The expedition will be equipped with an airplane. It is intended that the machine and crates of equipment will be taken in the *Discovery II* from either Stanley or South Georgia to Deception Island next December. Apart from this the *Discovery II* will not be used by the expedition, which is to purchase a suitable vessel.

According to present plans, the expedition will leave for Graham Land at the end of the summer. The examination of the coastal area mentioned may supply the answer to the old question as to whether the Antarctic is one or two continents.

Support of the British Government to the extent of £10,000 has been promised by the *Discovery* Committee, and a contribution of £1,000 is being made by the Royal Geographical Society.

While not taking any part in the organization of the expedition, the committee is interested in everything relating to whaling and hydrographic research, as any information gained by the expedition regarding the habits and food of whales in the Antarctic areas will be of great value to the whaling industry.

It is stated that Rymill is regarded as an excellent leader, and a worthy follower of Scott and Shackleton. He took over the leadership of the British Arctic Air Route expedition when H. G. Watkins, the English explorer, was drowned when the Eskimo kayak from which he was seal fishing, overturned off the coast of Greenland on August 20, 1932.

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE BY GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES

DR. GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY, of Yale University, director of the American School of Prehistoric Research, has announced that the seventh and final season of joint excavations in the Valley of the Caves at the western foot of Mount Carmel by the American School and the British School of Archeology in Jerusalem is to begin this month, with Miss Dorothy Garrod, of the British School, in charge. Dr. MacCurdy reported the opening in the British Museum of an exhibition of the important Palestinian prehistoric remains resulting from six expeditions conducted jointly by the American and British Schools. Miss Garrod conducted five of these expeditions; Mr. Theodore D. McCown, of the American School, had charge of one.

The specimens exhibited come from a group of three caves in the Wady-Mughara (Valley of the Caves) at the western foot of Mount Carmel, twelve miles south of Haifa, and looking over the Plain of Sharon to the sea. There are also exhibited rare specimens from the Cave of Kebara, some ten miles south of the Wady-Mughara group.

A composite section of the three Wady-Mughara

caves represents at least thirteen culture levels, beginning with the Lower Paleolithic of the Mindel-Riss Interglacial Epoch and ending in historic time: Taya-cian, Upper Acheulian, Acheulio-Mousterian, Lower Mousterian, Upper Mousterian, Lower Aurignacian, Middle Aurignacian, Upper Aurignacian, Lower Natufian, Upper Natufian and Bronze Age to Recent. At least 100,000 years have elapsed since man inhabited the lowest relic-bearing level of this composite section.

In addition to the cultural remains there are numerous skeletal remains of fossil man: a thigh bone of pre-Neandertal man, ten almost complete Neandertal skeletons and some sixty skeletons of the Natufian (Mesolithic) race. These Natufians were fond of ornaments, such as beads, pendants, etc. They seemed to have had the habit of removing the two front teeth before reaching the adult stage. Some of their bone sickle hafts were beautifully carved to represent animal forms. They had apparently learned their first lessons in a simple form of agriculture, but had no domestic animals; neither had they learned the art of pottery making. It is expected that remains of a still older race may be found at the bottom of the Tabun cave, where digging from now until the first of July will be carried on.

Coincident with the opening of the exhibition at the British Museum, Mr. McCown arranged a series of exhibits in the main hall of the Royal College of Surgeons. This was also in connection with the annual Hunterian Festival, Austin Chamberlain being guest of honor at the dinner. Mr. McCown, who is on the faculty of the University of California, will remain for another year at least at the Royal College of Surgeons, in order to complete for the two schools his study of the Neandertal skeletons.

THE KILCOHOOK MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

By executive order of February 3, President Roosevelt established the Killcohook Migratory Bird Refuge on areas acquired by the War Department adjacent to Fort Mott, N. J. This, the latest of a series of inviolate sanctuaries for wild fowl established under authorization of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, and administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is the first Federal migratory-bird refuge in New Jersey, and also the first in Delaware.

The area of the new refuge embraces approximately 1,440 acres nearly surrounding, but excluding, the Fort Mott Military Reservation and the adjacent Finns Point National Cemetery, both of which are in Salem County, New Jersey. The refuge itself, however, by reason of the interstate boundary at this