

# SCIENCE

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## RECENT PROGRESS IN THE STUDY OF EARLY MAN<sup>1</sup>

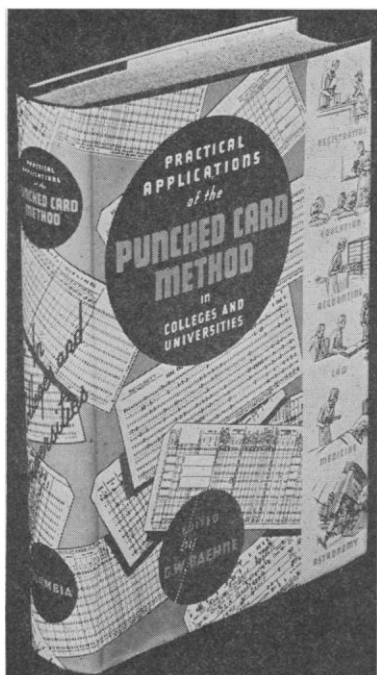
By Sir ARTHUR SMITH WOODWARD

WHEN meeting in East Anglia it is appropriate that the Section of Anthropology should devote some special attention to prehistoric archeology. In this part of England, as long ago as 1797, John Frere made the first scientific observations on Paleolithic implements which he had dug out of a superficial deposit at Hoxne. During recent years J. Reid Moir has excited wide interest by his discoveries of the oldest known stone implements which he has collected with remarkable zeal and discussed with acute observation. Here also arose the "Prehistoric Society of East Anglia," which has been so well supported during its career of over twenty years that it has gradually widened its sphere until now it becomes the "Prehistoric Society" devoted to advances in its subject in all parts of the world. We are, indeed, now confronted with problems much greater than those which the pioneers in western

Europe dealt with, when they were laying the foundations of research in prehistory. Traces of men who lived before the dawn of history in widely separated parts of the earth's surface have been discovered in increasing abundance during recent years; and a study which at first was more or less local has now become one of world-wide scope.

Among the several branches of science which contribute to our understanding of the subject, those of paleontology and geology are of considerable importance. Dr. Friedrich E. Zuener has recently demonstrated this by his valuable paper on the Pleistocene chronology of central Europe in the *Geological Magazine* for August, 1935. The period of man's existence on the earth has been so short that there has been no appreciable evolution among the mammals associated with successive human races; but many migrations and extinctions are observable, so that these mammals can often be used for determining the relative ages of the

<sup>1</sup> Address of the president of the Section of Anthropology, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Norwich, September, 1935.



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