Further light has been thrown on the discoveries made in 1939 and 1940 by an American Museum-University of Alaska expedition under the direction of Dr. Froelich G. Rainey, which found remains of a prehistoric town on the ancient migration route from Asia to America. Differences in the color of the vegetation disclosed five long avenues of some 600 buried dwellings that probably housed 3,000 people on the barren gravel spit of Point Hope, 130 miles above the Arctic Circle. Subsequent excavations in the graves that led out from the town site uncovered remains and implements very different from those of the prehistoric and present-day Eskimo tribes of that region. This ancient culture has been labeled "Ipiutak" from the Eskimo name of a small spit of land near the site.

In log-walled tombs, constructed in rectangular shape, well-preserved skeletons were found with their implements. Skulls were equipped with large ivory eyeballs, inlaid with jet pupils, and fantastic ivory carvings evidently used for decoration. The graves also contained many arrowheads, fine flint tools, needles and other artifacts of daily living. The carvings and implements made by these people were sufficiently different from the known Eskimo cultures to encourage further search to trace its origin.

Dr. Shapiro collected skeletal remains of the Ipiutaks as well as of the more recent Eskimo tribes and studied the living populations of Point Hope and the interior in order to determine the relationship of the ancient Ipiutak people to their successors. Another site excavated was at Tigara, a village very near the ancient Ipiutak town, now inhabited by modern Eskimos who live by hunting whales, seals and other sea mammals. Excavations at Tigara showed that it had been occupied since the abandonment of the Ipiutak site, roughly about 2,000 years ago. The Ipiutak culture is especially distinguished by a unique ivory art, an abundance of finely chipped flat tools and by an emphasis on land hunting gear. Many implements widely distributed among all previously known Eskimo people are absent. Moreover, in certain respects the Ipiutak culture, although the oldest in the area, is more complex and developed.

Dr. Shapiro made one of the largest collections of skeletal remains from any site in the New World, comprising 500 skeletons and covering more than 2,000 years of occupation in the Point Hope region. The results of months of laboratory work in measuring and comparing the remains from all these sites will determine the relationship of the Ipiutaks in the history of human migration from Asia to the North American continent.

Five hundred tombs were excavated by the expedition in an area covering an extent of six miles leading out from the Ipiutak town. The great number of artifacts recently found will be added to the collection made last year. One of the most interesting discoveries is a carved ivory mask made in several sections, with the inset ivory eyes which are peculiar to the Ipiutak burials. The mask was found in a tomb enclosing the remains of a man, a woman and a child. The body of the child was resting on the knees of the man and the huge ivory mask covered the body of the child. The significance of this and other Ipiutak burials is unknown.

THE ENGINEERS' DEFENSE BOARD

IN view of the existing national emergency, six national engineering societies have joined to organize the Engineers' Defense Board in order to provide a central agency that will be prepared to assist the various branches of the government with engineering knowledge and experience on questions connected with military preparedness. Among the functions of this organization will be:

To serve as a channel to inform engineers generally regarding defense problems, especially those involving shortages of materials.

To implement and make applicable reports and recommendations of the advisory committees of the National Academy of Sciences.

To urge engineers (a) to adopt procedures looking toward accomplishment of the objective of defense agencies; (b) to promote means of increasing production of raw materials in which shortages exist; (c) to conserve the supply of industrial materials; (d) to find substitutes, and (e) to simplify operations and production.

To act as a clearing house between engineers or engineering groups of information regarding substitute materials, waste prevention and conservation.

To appoint, on request of the Army, Navy or other defense agency, special committees of engineers to deal with specific engineering problems related to defense.

To select problems or projects dealing with defense and to study them with due regard to activities of existing agencies.

For the purpose of organization, the Engineers' Defense Board will consist initially of five representatives from each of the following six national engineering societies (American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Society of Automotive Engineers and American Institute of Chemical Engineers) such representatives to be appointed by the governing bodies of such societies. To these may be added one or more representatives of such other national engineering societies as may be invited to participate by the Executive Committee of the Engineers' Defense Board, such representatives to be designated by the governing body of their re-

spective society; and such additional representatives of the six "organizing" societies as may be requested by the Executive Committee of the Engineers' Defense Board.

The activities of the Engineers' Defense Board will be administered by an Executive Committee consisting of (a) a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary, elected by the other members of the Executive Committee and (b) one representative of each of the six societies heretofore named, appointed by the governing body of their respective societies. The officers need not be representatives of any of the participating societies.

THE MONTHLY SCIENCE NEWS OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL

THE British Council has formed a Science Committee under the chairmanship of Sir William Bragg, director of the Royal Institution, with the object of strengthening relations between British scientific men and those abroad, and to encourage mutual understanding of their problems and achievements.

The other members of the committee are Professor P. M. S. Blackett, the first to photograph the artificial disintegration of an atom; Professor J. D. Cockcroft, who first disintegrated atoms by machinery; Sir Robert Robinson, the eminent chemist who has contributed to the knowledge of natural coloring matters, among other groups of substances; Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, who has made studies of the movements of *Amoeba;* Sir Edward Mellanby, known for his work on vitamins A and D; Rear-Admiral Gordon Gordon-Taylor, a surgeon; Sir William Larke, a leading engineer; Sir Edward Appleton, an authority on radio waves and discoverer of new conducting layers in the higher atmosphere; Dr. A. P. M. Fleming, director of research of the Vickers Electrical Company; C. D. le Maistre, an authority on engineering standards, and Professor R. V. Southwell, a designer of aircraft structures and investigator of the theory of elasticity.

The committee has begun the publication of the *Monthly Science News* letter, giving a survey of current scientific developments under the editorship of J. G. Crowther, the secretary of the committee, science writer, author of "British Scientists of the Nineteenth Century," "The Social Relations of Science" and other books on general science.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

ACCORDING to *The Harvard Alumni Bulletin* President Conant has been spending two days a week in Washington during the summer as chairman of the National Defense Research Committee and expects to continue on approximately the same schedule during the winter. Many members of the faculty are engaged in part-time service on a variety of defense duties, and a number of others have been relieved from university duties to respond to the call of the government. A number of these, particularly from the scientific departments or the Schools of Medicine and Public Health, are engaged in laboratories in Cambridge, or elsewhere, on confidential work.

Among those on full-time duty on defense activities away from the university are: K. T. Bainbridge, associate professor of physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; R. H. Cole, instructor in physics, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.; E. M. Purcell, faculty instructor in physics, Radiation Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; T. E. Sterne, lecturer on astrophysics, 1st Lieutenant, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; J. C. Street, associate professor of physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; D. B. Dill, professor of industrial physiology and consulting physiologist to the Department of Hygiene, Major, Aero-Medical Research Unit, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio; H. H. Aiken, associate professor of applied mathematics and faculty instructor in physics and communication engineering, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N. R., Naval Mine Warfare School, Yorktown, Va.; J. P. Den Hartog, associate professor of applied mechanics; Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N. R., Bureau of Ships, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

THE hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Rutgers University was celebrated on October 8, 9 and 10. The celebration opened with an address by Dr. Roscoe Pound, from 1915 to 1936 dean of the Harvard Law School, who was from 1892 to 1903 director of the Nebraska Botanical Survey. He was followed by Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A number of symposia were held in the afternoon. Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Robert W. Trullinger, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, took part in the symposium on applied science. Governor Charles Edison was the principal speaker at the New Jersey dinner on October 9.

Dr. Hugh Stott Taylor, of Princeton University, presided on Friday when Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the General Electric Company, and Professor E. O. Lawrence, of the University of California, took part. President Clarence Dykstra, of the University of Wisconsin, made an address on Saturday.

Among the honorary degrees conferred at the anniversary convocation on October 11 were the following: