

filled with shallow horizontal lines, broken at intervals with similar lines in a vertical direction.

Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes, of the British Museum, who has kindly made a report on the pot, describes it as a variant of the well-known La Tène III butt-shaped urn, and he dates it about the opening of the Christian era. At this period the normal rite in south-east Britain was cremation, and the association of this urn with an inhumed burial is therefore notable. Mr. Hawkes's provisional explanation is this: the occupants of the district in the earlier Iron Age, who remained undisturbed from late Hallstatt times until the first century B. C., were liable originally to practise either rite, but in Middle La Tène times at least regularly inhumed. On the other hand, the Belgic invaders of the first century B. C. brought in the uniform rite of cremation. But these are hardly represented at all in Sussex, for the line of the South Downs falls between the area of the Swarling-Aylesford group in Kent with the counties north of London, and the second region of Belgic penetration in Hampshire, Berkshire, and further west. The established population was influenced, but so little disturbed, that Belgic intruders here must have been few, and in fact have so far only been attested by indirect evidence. It need cause no surprise, then, to find the previously current rite of inhumation still existing in Sussex at the end of the first century B. C. when a certain number of Belgic intruders may have appeared who themselves practised cremation. Examples of this are known even in the strongly Belgic areas of Kent and Hampshire, and in Sussex it was only to be expected. However, the presence in the Eastbourne burial of an urn of wholly Belgic type deserves notice, as it is the first vessel of its class to be found in that county, where the normal La Tène III pottery is merely a direct development of the earlier native wares under some degree of Belgic influence.

Appointment.—Dr. George Francis Hill, C.B., F.S.A., has been appointed by H.M. the King to succeed our Fellow Sir Frederic Kenyon, G.B.E., K.C.B., in the office of Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Obituary Notice

Dr. H. R. H. Hall. News of the sudden and entirely unthought-of death of Dr. H. R. H. Hall, which occurred on October 13 last, caused peculiar consternation to his colleagues at the British Museum and to his many friends, both scholars and laymen, outside. He had been, less than a week before, in Germany, chiefly in order to visit the new buildings in which part of the *Vorderasiatische Abteilung* of the Berlin Museums has recently been housed. From Berlin he passed to Dresden and Leipzig, and thence home, having the misfortune to take a chill upon the journey. For a few days he was confined to bed by this supposed slight ailment,

then suddenly died. His life thus ended in his full activity, for he was only 57 years old.

Hall went up from Merchant Taylors' School to St. John's College, Oxford, as a history scholar, and history remained his paramount interest to the end. His attention was soon turned to ancient oriental history, and on going down he at once joined the staff of the Egyptian and Assyrian Department in the British Museum; this was to be his life's work. An Egyptologist primarily, he never allowed his interest to be exclusively taken up by one subject, for his first publication was a book upon the pre-Hellenic civilization of Greece, and in his later years he added a considerable knowledge of the antiquities of Babylonia. In all these branches of study as well as in the general history of the ancient East he continued to produce important work up to the end of his life. Nor was experience of the practical work of archaeology lacking, for he had assisted Naville in the excavation of Dair al-bahri and Abydos before the war, and was at Abydos again in 1925. But of all the field-work in which he ever engaged it was his expedition to Mesopotamia, just at the end of the war, which made most impression upon him, and in which he made his most important discoveries. His first account of this work appeared in the Society's *Proceedings* (Dec. 1919), and he had just completed before his death *A Season's Work at Ur*, which he did not live to see appear.

Elected a Fellow in 1911 and a Vice-President in 1929, Hall was also a very popular member of the Cocked Hat Club. If he was not a frequent contributor to its discussions or publications he had a real affection for and pride in the Society. His other honours were too many to mention here, but he had been for six years Keeper of his Department in the Museum and was a Fellow of the British Academy. Most of all, perhaps, he prized an Honorary Fellowship of his College, and his appointment as a member of the German Archaeological Institute; how highly his attainments and personality were valued abroad has been feelingly expressed in many letters. Yet when all this has been said, those who knew him will think that the description has not yet begun. His greatest qualities were observation and humour; he seemed to have missed nothing, and had accumulated a store of information, even upon remote and astonishing matters, which delightfully enriched both his writings and his conversation. To these resources he added a spirit of unflinching youth, to make up a fine scholar and a charming personality; in both characters he will be long and sorely missed. C. J. G.