

ANTIQUITY

Culture that followed is half-Fauresmith and half-Sangoan—i.e. its affinities with the Uganda counterpart are as marked as they are with the South African expression of what appears to be the same cultural horizon. In these cultures the basic Levallois technique is the same in all three territories, but the principal tool-types vary from the pick in Uganda, to the pick and hand-axe in the Congo and the hand-axe and cleaver in the Union. The Kalinian of the Congo is followed by mid-palaeolithic industries that include Stillbay elements integrally associated with an identically developed Levallois technique, but the principal tool-types differ so markedly that an independent set of terms is required to describe the cultural horizons they and their successors represent. Dr Cabu's well-documented collections show that there is no culture such as the Tumbian as hitherto understood. Both the Abbé Breuil and the Director have submitted their views on Dr Cabu's collections to the Royal Society of South Africa for publication in the Transactions of the Society. These, it is hoped, will appear in due course.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Mr Grimes' reference to the administration of the British Museum, in his article on 'Museums and the Future' (ANTIQUITY, March 1944, p. 46), shows a misapprehension of the facts which it is desirable to remove. It is true that the Board of Trustees includes high officers of Church and State, and representatives of the families of the donors of certain important collections; but it also includes fifteen elected members, chosen on account of their interest in and knowledge of the matters with which the Museum has to deal. Further (and still more important) the actual administration is delegated to a Standing Committee, composed mainly of the elected Trustees, together with a few of the *ex-officio* Trustees who have taken an active interest in the affairs of the Museum. The result is that the Museum has a governing body fully capable of controlling the Director, while sufficiently versed in the conduct of affairs not to want to interfere in minor details; and the fact that it has an independent governing body composed of persons of weight and experience gives it an authority which it would not have if it were controlled by a Government department. There was a striking example of the value of this independence during the last war, when the War Cabinet decided to hand over the Museum to the Air Ministry. A Cabinet Minister would not have been able to resist the decision of his colleagues; but the Trustees were able to appeal to the public, and so obtain a reversal of the decision. The present system is very far from being 'indefensible'; indeed it gives the Museum the best governing body of any institution with which I am acquainted. It should not be rashly subverted without a knowledge of the facts and of its actual working.

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EGYPTIAN BRONZE-MAKING AGAIN.

In ANTIQUITY, xvii, pp. 96-8 I published an Egyptian picture showing the manufacture of bronze by the advanced method of mixing and *melting* together the ready-made metals of copper and tin. This is a great improvement on the mere *smelting* of a mixture of the two ores, whether a chance one provided by nature or even a purposeful one made in the workshop. It was also shown that this step forward had already been taken by some time during the 200 years between 1580 and 1370 B.C.

It is now possible to limit the date somewhat more closely, for another scene showing this technique is to be found in the tomb of Rekhmirê, also at Thebes, and this was painted about 1450 B.C. Therefore the period during which the art of mixing and