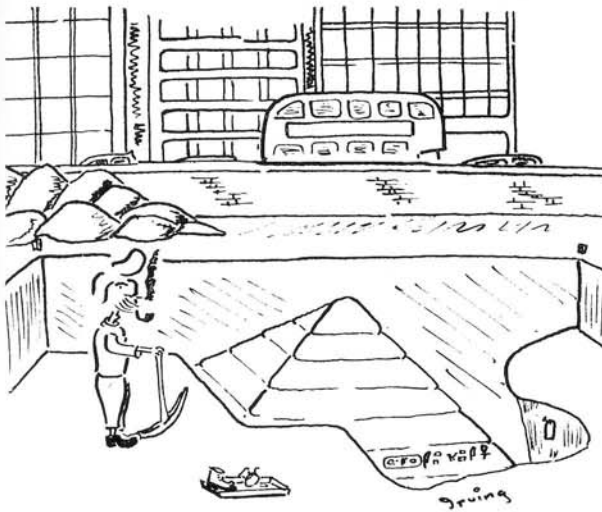


IN A HOLE



'Oh, dear !!'

Current Excavations

City, Lower Thames Street, opposite Billingsgate Market by Guildhall Museum and City of London Archaeological Society. Site of Roman town-house and baths (see *the London Archaeologist*, Winter 1968). Inquiries to Peter Marsden, Guildhall Museum, Gillett House, 55 Basinghall Street, EC2. Society inquiries to Mrs. M. Smith, 26A Noel Rd, N1, (01-359 2078).

Heathrow Airport, by London Museum. Neolithic Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement area with ditches, pits and huts. Urgent help required but volunteers should contact Roy Canham at London Museum (WES 9816) before starting out for the site as the work is on a day-to-day basis.

Northolt by Northolt Archaeological and Historical Research Group. The site is the medieval Manor but there is also an important early Saxon phase. Work continues on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Inquiries to C. H. Keene, 21 Islip Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex.

Mucking, by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. Ranges from a ditch of the late Bronze Age to Saxon graves (see *the London Archaeologist*, Winter, 1968). Excavation takes place seven days a week. Inquiries to Excavation Supervisor for M.P.W.B., Mucking Excavation, Mucking, Stanford le Hope, Essex.

Letters

CIB GROUP

IN the interesting article on the Forum excavations in the Spring issue of *the London Archaeologist* mention was made of the CIB Group. Perhaps one could be enlightened as to the meaning of the letters and the sphere of activity of this Group.

14 The Hermitage
SW.13

DAPHNE M. HUDSON

The *Notitia Dignitatum* mentions that the Roman fort at Reculver was garrisoned by the First Cohort of Baetasians. This was substantiated in 1959 when excavations produced bricks stamped CIB (*Cohors I Baetasiorum*).

The CIB Group was formed in 1964 from hard-core members of the Reculver Excavation Group. It was later extended to include members of the West Kent Border Archaeological Group. Membership is restricted to those diggers who have considerable experience of field-work and have been trained in archaeological methods and techniques. More important still they must have shown themselves able to withstand strict discipline and hard work.—Ed.

THE ROMAN ARMY

THE recent publication of Graham Webster's *The Roman Imperial Army** reveals how fortunate we are in this country to have so many military remains of the period. In the foreword he suggests that the book will serve as a basis for studies in this specialist field. There are still many areas in which further basic research is required, especially on the practical side.

With this in mind I should be grateful to hear from anyone interested in forming a Roman Army Research Group. The objects of the Group which would be kept as

* Published by A. and C. Black—75s.

informal as possible, would be to bring together individuals interested in the subject, to collate information and to collaborate in specific projects.

Some of the projects envisaged could, for example, include a reconstruction of legionary armour (*lorica segmentata*) based on Webster's revised theories and the study of the construction-time for marching camps. Similar work on permanent camps is being conducted at Baginton (*Current Archaeology* No. 4).

3 Jellicoe House,
Chartfield Avenue,
SW.15

TONY SHAW

THAMES BARRAGE

ACCORDING to a letter in *The Daily Telegraph* on February 10th from the Chairman of the G.L.C. Public Services Committee, investigations into the feasibility of a Thames barrage or barrier, first suggested in 1780, are proceeding at speed.

Many important finds of all periods from prehistoric to the humble clay pipe have been recovered over the years from the bed of the Thames and whilst not suggesting that archaeology should be regarded as a treasure hunt, it might be advisable for local societies and groups along the banks to organise some mudlarking while there is yet time.

Much, if not all, of the present foreshore presumably will be permanently submerged above the barrier, and allowing for weather, low tides and leisure-time synchronising, to say nothing of the frequent calls to mount rescue operations on sites in London, there may not be so much opportunity for action after all. It sounds a long term project but some forward planning would not be amiss.

A cheering thought is that the River Authority reports that the Thames mud and water flowing under London Bridge is now much sweeter than you think.

26 Pemberton Avenue,
Gidea Park,
Romford,
Essex.

A. S. WARREN