

Mosaic

HEATHROW AIRPORT EXCAVATIONS

THE LONDON MUSEUM has recently completed a series of emergency excavations at Heathrow Airport. Evidence of settlement from the Bronze Age to late in the Roman period was reported by members of the West London Archaeological Field Group during inspection of the 3,000 foot runway extension. Two ring ditches were exposed by the Contractors' excavations, one of which was divided into segments by causeways. Emergency work was concentrated on a site of Iron Age and Roman date, much of which had been destroyed by the 150 feet wide excavation for the runway.

The size of this settlement was perhaps 4-5 acres, yet it does not appear on aerial photographs, and is a little less than two miles from the Iron Age encampment excavated by Professor Grimes. Some of the Early Iron Age pottery groups contain unusual forms, dating from the 6th or 5th centuries B.C. The large collection of animal bones should yield valuable information about Iron Age economy in Middlesex. The excavations were directed by Roy Canham.



Wooden water pipes in Carlos Place, W.1.

(Photo: Valerie Beck)

WOODEN PIPES

THIS photograph was sent by Miss Valerie Beck, who also provided some information given to her by Mr. G. C. Berry of the Metropolitan Water Board.

The pipes shown are hollowed elm, which was used before cast-iron water pipes became universal in the mid-19th century. They were found in 1966 in Carlos Place, (Mayfair, W.1.), a street which was laid out before 1750. As the life of such pipes was only 25 years, it is unlikely that these were the original ones laid with the street.

The Chelsea Water Company, which supplied this area, was incorporated by Charter in 1723 and taken over by the Metropolitan Water Board in 1904. This Company had reservoirs in Hyde Park and in Green Park, the water being drawn from the Thames at Chelsea Bridge.

The deficiencies in this system are obvious. Wooden pipes were easily contaminated and the water inside them was drawn from a river into which untreated sewage was discharged. Such was the ignorance of water contamination that further down-stream the Lambeth Water Works had the idea of drawing their water from mid-stream of the

BERMONDSEY GLASS WORKS

INFORMATION on the lesser known glassworks of Britain is sought after by C. C. Manley, Woodlyn, Dunn's Bank, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Staffs. Mr. Manley in particular is interested in the now extinct Bermondsey Glass Works.

FINDS FROM THE THAMES

JOYCE ANDREWS and Peter Murphy of the City of London Archaeological Society are collecting information on finds from the Thames. Owing to the lack of adequate records and maps of these finds they are hoping to build up a central card index, to be housed at Guildhall Museum, and to plan them on period distribution maps. It is hoped that as there is so much information in one museum alone, other societies will co-operate in the project and build up a central pool of information. It has been pointed out that a similar project was started by members of Morley College Archaeological Class some two to three years back. Has anyone any information about where the material is housed?

river instead of the side, as the action of currents might have a beneficial effect. It was not until nearly 30 years after the first great cholera epidemic in the 1830's that the connection with contaminated water and disease was proved.

SOUTH LONDON JOINT COMMITTEE

THE formation of a Joint Committee is being discussed by representatives of several societies concerned with local history, archaeology and allied subjects in South London. The idea emanated from a meeting held last November at the instigation of the Lewisham Local History Society, which was attended by representatives from some dozen societies. The main function of the Committee, if formed, will be to provide a means of communication between societies, to co-ordinate archaeological and historical work, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and a means of initiating joint action if necessary in such matters as preservation.

Items of news or interesting notes for this feature, should be sent to Brian Bloice, 94 Hubert Grove, S.W.9.