

GENERAL SCIENCE

Britain's Defense Aided By "Central Register"

Listing of 200,000 Scientists and Technical Men Facilitates War Research; Even Aliens Are Listed

BRTAIN'S all-out defense is being aided by specially developed machinery for immediate placing of technically trained men where their services are of the greatest value to the nation. Details of the plan are made public in *Nature*. (Dec. 14, 1940)

When a Government department or other defense agency needs men, a call goes to the Central Register, which is a listing of scientific men and their talents similar to the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel in the United States. Within a few hours or at most a few days, men with the required technical training and experience are located. It is discovered whether they are available and willing to undertake the particular job in question. Their present employers are questioned and permitted to offer objection to having the worker taken away. And the list of those available and qualified is furnished to the agency in need of the special services.

In the year in which it has been in operation, the Central Register has placed 9,016 persons in Government and war work, including 1,469 scientists. The Register now contains the names of 200,000 persons—stepped up from 97,000

after the Government required the compulsory registration of all engineers, engineering scientists, chemists and physicists.

The function of the Register, it is pointed out in *Nature*, is not to find jobs for men but to find men for jobs.

In order to make it easier for the Register officials to understand and anticipate the personnel needs of the Government and war industries, the Register was divided into two non-technical and five technical sections. Each of the technical sections was placed under the direction of a qualified scientist or engineer.

The Central Register keeps in close touch with the Scientific Advisory Committee, which is charged with the responsibility of making applications of science to the war effort and planning scientific research which might aid the Government in the emergency.

All but one of the members of this Scientific Advisory Committee, which parallels America's National Defense Research Committee, serve also in an advisory capacity to the Central Register. This makes it possible in planning new scientific research, or new applications of science, to think at the same time in

terms of men qualified to undertake the program.

Even aliens are registered so that their services will be available in the war effort. At present the names of 3,400 qualified professional men are ready as soon as the Government takes steps so that "friendly disposed aliens" can be permitted to help in the war.

Science News Letter, February 1, 1941

ARCHAEOLOGY

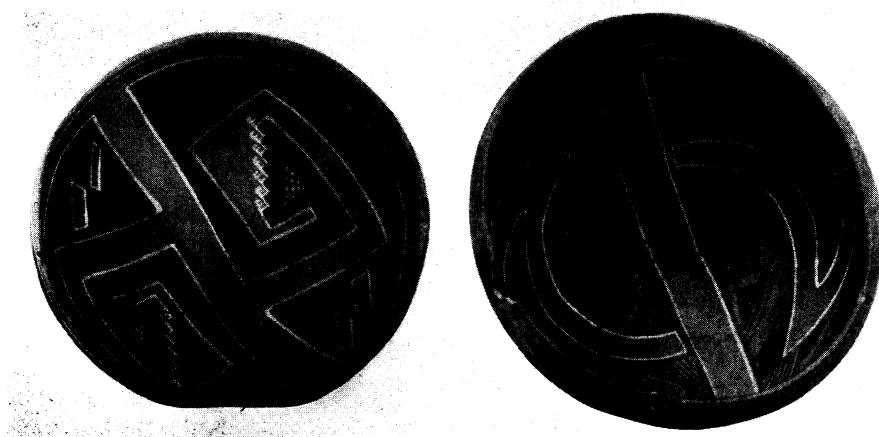
Indian Pottery Shows Evolution of Swastika

NEW LIGHT on evolution of the swastika in prehistoric America, centuries before German Nazis adopted the symbol, is revealed on little-known Indian pottery at the Field Museum of Natural History.

That the swastika was popular in the ancient Southwest is plain from its persistent frequency in an array of 900 objects which the museum has selected to picture in an illustrated report on painted pottery of Anasazi Indians. Much of this pottery, unearthed 50 years ago, has never been seen by the public or even by students.

Indians preferred the hooked arms turning left, just the opposite of the Nazi pattern, is the verdict of Dr. Paul S. Martin and Mrs. Elizabeth S. Willis.

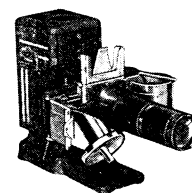
Study of the art shows that in some



INDIAN SWASTIKA DESIGNS

Turning it the wrong way and making it curved were variations of the fundamental swastika design incorporated by Anasazi Indians of America's prehistoric southwest.

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