

NEWS AND VIEWS

Scandinavia

AUSTRIA, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, and now Denmark and Norway have been attacked in turn by the reactionary forces of Europe. By sheer weight of numbers and over-powering military forces the totalitarian war machine is proceeding on its way, leaving as it passes a trail of physical and spiritual destruction. The University of Copenhagen includes the world-famous Institute of Physics presided over by Prof. Niels Bohr, For.Mem.R.S., whose genius has been responsible for much of our present knowledge of atomic physics. A letter from his Institute appears elsewhere in this issue. Prof. G. Hevesy, For.Mem.R.S., has worked there for the past few years. Prof. August Krogh, For.Mem.R.S., also of the University of Copenhagen, has an international reputation for his studies in animal physiology, and Prof. Boysen Jensen is equally well known for his work on plant physiology. There is also the famous Carlsberg Institute, whence much fundamental work on biochemistry has come. The name of Prof. Th. Mortensen, the distinguished zoologist and oceanographer, will also be associated with the Carlsberg Institute. Prof. N. E. Nørlund, For.Mem.R.S., director of the Danish Geodetic Institute, is known to mathematicians, astronomers and geodesists.

Norway has an active University at Oslo. Meteorological investigations initiated by Prof. V. F. K. Bjerknes, For.Mem.R.S., are the basis of modern weather forecasting. Prof. J. Hjort, For.Mem.R.S., is well known as a marine biologist; Prof. C. Størmer's work on the aurora will be familiar to many readers of NATURE. Prof. L. Vegard is a well-known astrophysicist on its staff; a letter signed by him also appears in our pages this week. The publications of the Bergen Museum are widely known. It is worth remarking that the names mentioned above include no fewer than six foreign members of the Royal Society. It cannot be expected in present circumstances that scientific work will proceed in these and other institutions in Denmark and Norway. Whether they take an active or a passive part in the present struggle, the peoples of these two countries will have the support of all who believe in the fundamental principles of academic and individual freedom.

Dr. S. Zuckerman

IN April 1939 Dr. S. Zuckerman was appointed to the chair of anatomy in the University of Birmingham, and plans were immediately discussed for the establishment in the Department of Anatomy of an experimental unit in order to allow the new professor to continue and develop the programme of work on which he has been engaged for some years. Unfortunately, the War has interrupted these discussions, and the plans have necessarily been shelved for the moment. In view of this, and also because Dr.

Zuckerman is engaged in war work elsewhere, he has had to postpone the assumption of his appointment at Birmingham until more propitious times. Meanwhile Dr. C. F. V. Smout is the acting head of the Department of Anatomy at Birmingham. Dr. Zuckerman entered on his academic career as a medical student of the University of Cape Town. After spending two years there as a demonstrator of anatomy he came to London as a Union Research Fellow, and qualified in medicine from University College in 1928. During 1928-32 he was research anatomist of the Zoological Society of London. During 1933-34 he worked in the United States, first as a research associate in the Primate Laboratories at Yale and afterwards as a Rockefeller Fellow. On his return to England he joined Prof. Le Gros Clark at the University of Oxford as a Beit Fellow and Departmental demonstrator. Later he was appointed University demonstrator and Nuffield research worker in endocrinology, and he continues to hold these appointments for the present. While at Oxford Dr. Zuckerman has played an important part in the development of research laboratories of a modern type in the Department of Human Anatomy.

Dr. Zuckerman's first work was concerned with the processes of development and growth in monkeys and apes, and with the mechanisms underlying the social behaviour of these animals. Many of his early researches were incorporated in his books "The Social Life of Monkeys and Apes" and "The Functional Affinities of Man, Monkeys and Apes". These behavioural studies led him on to an inquiry into the reproductive mechanisms of primates—particularly the menstrual cycle and its control by hormonal and neural factors. This again, from observations on the relation of changes in water metabolism to the menstrual cycle, has turned his attention more recently to the problem of the interrelation of the adrenal glands and the gonads. Dr. Zuckerman has also published a number of papers dealing with the prostate gland and other male accessory reproductive organs, as well as the histogenesis of tissues which are sensitive to oestrogenic stimulation.

Gold Medallist of the Society of Antiquaries

THE Gold Medal of the Society of Antiquaries of London, which is regarded by archaeologists as the highest mark of recognition of distinguished service to their science, has been awarded for the year 1940 to Aarne Michel Tallgren, professor of the archaeology of Finland and the North in the University of Helsinki, for his studies in the prehistory of the Eurasiatic continent, with more especial reference to the development of culture in the northern regions of that tract. For more than thirty years his studies have been devoted to the elucidation of the broader problems of this field, upon which he has brought