

tions and those of his collaborators and students soon became one of the most active and successful centres of chemical research in India. His name is particularly well known for his investigations on magnetism and its relation to atomic and molecular structure. Together with K. N. Mathur, he wrote an important work entitled "Physical Principles and Applications of Magnetochemistry" (Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1935). Apart from these magnetochemical investigations, the researches carried out in the University Chemical Laboratories at Lahore under the directorship of Sir Shanti have covered a wide field, including, among many other subjects, surface actions, photochemistry, and chemi-luminescence.

Although a number of industrial concerns in India have asked for and obtained valuable scientific help from him, Sir Shanti has consistently refused any personal financial reward. As a result, he has received from them very considerable sums of money for the

improvement of the scientific equipment of the University Chemical Laboratories at Lahore and the foundation of research scholarships.

When in April 1940 the Board and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was formed by the Government of India, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar was appointed the first director. The very important work already carried out by this Government research organization has been largely due to the great energy and ability of its director, whose valuable national services have been recognized recently by the conferment on him of a knighthood.

It is no exaggeration to say that a component and very important part of the great work which India is doing in the War is due to the successful labours of the Board and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and it is a source of deep satisfaction that the Board's first director of research is an eminent Indian man of science and a fellow of the Royal Society of London.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Reconstruction and a Council of Europe

THERE have been comments from various sources in recent months to the effect that Mr. Winston Churchill was too preoccupied with the direction of the War to give adequate attention to questions of the reconstruction to follow it. His broadcast address on March 21 was an answer to such criticism; it was delivered in measured terms, and set forth his views on the future of Great Britain, of Europe, and of the world. The first essential is, of course, the utter destruction of Nazism, and Mr. Churchill suggested that the first stage will be its disappearance from Europe. This will be the time to build up, on the lofty conceptions of freedom, law and morality which was the spirit of the League of Nations, a sort of Council of Europe, consisting of the great European States, associated with confederations of lesser States, so that "we shall achieve the largest common measure of the integrated life of Europe that is possible without destroying the individual characteristics and traditions of its many ancient and historic races". Towards this end, discussions are already taking place. Achievement of this project, however, will be possible only when the nations realize that none of them will be able to achieve the full satisfaction of its individual desires. The Council of Europe would be followed by a Council of Asia, leading on to a world organization.

### The Prime Minister's Four Years Plan

TURNING to the domestic affairs of Great Britain, Mr. Churchill said he would propose a Four Years Plan to cover the period of transition and reconstruction which must follow the end of the war in Europe. Such a Plan would comprise five or six large measures of a practical character, all of which would require careful preparation in advance in order that they might fit into the general scheme. This scheme would have to receive the approval of the country at large. One such measure should be a scheme for compulsory national social insurance, and Mr. Churchill said that he and his colleagues are making the necessary preliminary legislative preparations. Agriculture must be maintained at a higher level by reviving healthy village life, so that Great Britain will not be so dependent on imported foodstuffs as

hitherto. A national health service is another necessity, to combat the dwindling birth-rate as well as to carry on the war against disease. Education is also being actively studied. "The future of the world is to the highly educated races who alone can handle the scientific apparatus necessary for pre-eminence in peace or survival in war." Education must be broader and more liberal, with due consideration of the lessons of the past; and opportunities for advanced education must be available to all. Religion has been a fundamental element in the schools of Great Britain, and must continue to play its part in building character. Secular schooling must be extended, and plans made for part-time education for those entering industry. The physical reconstruction made necessary by air-raid damage must also be planned effectively and preparations made well in advance.

Mr. Churchill concluded on the note of finance. He said that the Government will be responsible to the people for the money which they have provided for the war effort; this involves stabilization of prices. Taxation, though it will necessarily be high after the War, must not stifle enterprise. The Government is preparing measures to enable it "to exercise a balancing influence upon development which can be turned on or off as circumstances require". The State must increasingly concern itself with the economic well-being of the nation, but must nevertheless revive as soon as possible a vigorous private enterprise. The intense demands for goods, both for home and export, which will come immediately the War ends, need not be succeeded by a disastrous slump such as that which followed the War of 1914-18. Under the stress of war, industry has learned new methods; electrification has increased 50 per cent; and new industries have arisen. Thus the radio industry, gas and electricity will be faced with many opportunities for expansion and service; and transportation of all types must be developed. Throughout his address, Mr. Churchill stressed the need for work, for service and for general preparedness for the future, although he deprecated attempts to fill in detail or commit the country to large-scale expenditure in a future which cannot yet be clearly envisaged.