

## Mr. R. E. Turner

By the death of Rowland Edwards Turner on November 29, 1945, at Mossel Bay, Cape Province, at the age of eighty-two, the British Museum (Natural History) has lost a friend who worked voluntarily for the Department of Entomology for more than thirty years. During the First World War, he laboured in the Hymenoptera Room to build up the first arranged national general collections of Braconidae and of the sphecoid and vespoïd families then collectively known as 'Fossorial Hymenoptera'. He soon became a recognized authority on the Thynnidae and contributed the part of Wytzman's "Genera Insectorum" devoted to that family.

In the inter-war period, Turner spent almost his whole time collecting for the Museum, in tropical Queensland, in western and other parts of Australia, in Assam, but most of all in South Africa. He collected and presented to the Museum more than 850,000 specimens, mostly Hymenoptera but also

representatives of Coleoptera and other orders, specializing in the obscurer forms neglected by others. The main mass of this vast collection remains as a priceless store of material for present and future workers to investigate; for, unlike many collectors, Turner took great care that his material should be in the most perfect condition possible. No doubt countless undescribed genera and species are represented in this sample collection, but among the numerous discoveries already made known might be mentioned the new hymenopterous family Dinapsidae which he discovered in South Africa. Furthermore, he found time to write 125 papers, mostly to describe new genera and species of Fossorial Hymenoptera he had collected himself.

After his mother's death, Turner married her nurse, who now survives him. He was very shy and had an impediment in his speech, but was of such a sweet temperament that he had no unkind words for others, or they for him.

ROBERT B. BENSON.

## NEWS and VIEWS

## American Academy of Arts and Sciences and International Co-operation

At its January meeting, the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the second oldest learned society in the United States, adopted the following resolution: "Believing that the peace of the world and the advancement of the arts, the sciences, and education in all countries can be effectively furthered by an active support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences congratulates the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States upon the several resolutions adopted by them favoring support of this organisation, and urges upon the Congress the desirability of ratifying the charter of the organisation on the basis of the signature of our representatives at the London Conference last November".

## Control of Atomic Energy: Chinese Views

DR. JOSEPH NEEDHAM, of the British Council Cultural and Scientific Office, Chungking, invited representative Chinese bodies to make statements on the use and control of atomic energy. The Chinese Physical Society believes that the United Nations Organisation should appoint a commission on atomic energy to ensure that its applications are developed solely towards peaceful objectives; the proposed commission should organise world-wide inspection, and also an international laboratory, which would be a centre of research on fundamental problems, open to qualified men of science of all nations. The Science Society of China, which is comparable with the British Association in function, deprecates the use of atomic energy for weapons of war, and makes the point that, if the benefits of the use of atomic energy are to be extended to all peoples, it is unjustifiable for any nation or group of nations to keep a monopoly on such information. It believes that all knowledge relating to atomic energy should be under the control of the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation. The Natural Science Society of China and the Chinese Association of Scientific Workers point

out that the control of atomic energy by individual nations imposes conditions on scientific workers involved which are inimical to freedom of research, expression and communication, and that national direction of such research would hinder development. It is therefore suggested that an international conference to discuss the problem, under the auspices of the Security Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, should be summoned as soon as possible; and that a group of men of science of many nations should take part in the control of the application of atomic energy.

## United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation has come one step nearer as a result of the fourth session of the Preparatory Commission held in London during February 11 and 12. Under the chairmanship of Miss Ellen Wilkinson, British Minister of Education, and of Mr. Donald Stone, U.S.A. delegate, the Commission considered a wide field of suggested activities. As at present envisaged, the Organisation consists of the following committees: A, Humanities and Sciences; B, Education; C, Media of Mass Communication; D, Libraries, Museums, Exchanges, Publications, Special Projects; E, Organisation Issues. Some of these committees are subdivided again into sub-committees; thus Committee A has sub-committees on philosophy, arts, social sciences and natural and pure sciences. The sub-committee on natural and pure sciences is to review and make recommendations upon international co-operation in the field of those sciences. The sub-committee on social sciences will be responsible for planning activities, including the interchange of men and ideas, in those sciences, their application to contemporary international problems, the organisation of international study conferences and institutes, etc. Committee B (Education) will deal with matters relating to education at all levels, including adult education. It may be necessary for this committee to establish *ad hoc* sub-committees, but it was felt that in order to emphasize the continuity of the educational process, from the nursery school to the