

It is curious to remember that England, the home of vaccination against smallpox, is slow to practise immunization. It waited fifty years, and lost many lives, before it used its own inventions; similarly with diphtheria and typhoid. *Tuberculosis* also has been a cause of anxiety owing to an increase of 23 per cent among industrial young women. The avoidance of droplet infection, the use of pasteurized milk, and miniature radiography in diagnosis are recommended.

Venereal disease is a still more complex problem, which tends to increase in importance in war-time. The Royal Commission of 1916 elucidated it and directed attention to the importance of early diagnosis, free treatment, the use of Salvarsan or its derivatives, and the prohibition of quack advertisements, false remedies, and unqualified practice. It also advised widespread public education, and numerous clinics, of which some two hundred were established. In March of the present year, the Central Council for Health Education was authorized to assist in the necessary educational work (see also NATURE, Nov. 7, p. 529). Notification of venereal disease was not recommended in 1916, as it tends to drive the disease underground; but its present tendency to rise in incidence is full of warning as to the need for alertness and vigilance. The reaction of the Ministry of Health to the problem is seen in a Defence Regulation (33, B.) issued on November 11 (since the "Summary Report" was published) announcing that, particularly because of the presence of numbers of service men and women from countries where treatment of venereal disease is compulsory, treatment is now made compulsory in Great Britain.

Happily this is not all. For the Minister of Health has an eye to the future reconstruction of the public health services, and his advice on this subject is much to the point. The prior aim to meet the admit-

ted needs of mothers and children, which has proved itself most effective, is not enough; and in 1941 the Minister laid down the principles of his particular "New Order". There must be no return after the War to the confused and unrelated hospital services pursuing independent, wasteful, and competitive courses; the hospital business must be *planned* as a whole into a comprehensive and adequately integrated national service by which everyone in need will actually receive appropriate and prompt treatment. This is to be undertaken by the larger local authorities (in close co-operation with the smaller) and in recognized co-operation also with the voluntary hospitals, in areas substantially larger than those of existing local authorities. This meets the new demand for regionalization. Further, the Exchequer should give financial help, especially to hospitals undertaking the teaching of medical students or the highly specialized services of medicine, surgery and practical midwifery. To this end the Minister of Health has instituted a system of survey of the present administrative situation, beginning in the London district, and also an inquiry into organization of the medical schools, and their arrangements for clinical teaching and research. Such inquiry will not include the curriculum of medical training, already provided by the General Medical Council under Act of Parliament. Nor has the Minister lost sight of two new spheres of applied medicine, industrial and rehabilitation. We must complete our medical treatment (vocationally or otherwise) by following up effectually our remedy, so that the industrial worker who has been disabled may be returned to his job fit to continue his work, or any new work to which he may be transferred. All this is very timely and hopeful; and it envisages a long-felt need for co-operation with medicine of the rehabilitators, the vocationalists, and the medical specialists.

NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. D. R. Pye, C.B., F.R.S.

DR. DAVID RANDALL PYE, formerly fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and of New College, Oxford, has been appointed to succeed Sir Allen Mawer as provost of University College, London. Dr. Pye, who has been for many years connected with the scientific side of aeronautics, succeeded Mr. H. E. Wimperis as director of scientific research to the Air Ministry, which appointment was transferred by a war-time change to the Ministry of Aircraft Production. In this position he has had control of a large scientific and experimental staff, principally at the Ministry's London headquarters, the Royal Aircraft Establishment at South Farnborough, and the Aircraft Testing Station at Boscombe Down. He has also worked in collaboration with the Aeronautical Research Committee, and the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, and has been responsible for maintaining the high standard of scientific aeronautical research in Great Britain.

Dr. Pye's own original scientific work was on the internal combustion engine, and he is the author of a standard work in addition to many papers on this subject. His administrative work at the Air Ministry has covered all the other branches of work associated

with the development of aeronautics, and the production and use of aircraft in the widest sense. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1937, and is a past vice-president and member of the Council of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He is also one of the general editors of the Oxford Engineering Science Series of works.

Akbar, the Great Mughal

ON November 23, 1542, Akbar, the future Mughal Emperor, was born at Amarkot. His father, Humayun, had already lost the kingdom won by Babar, and Akbar's childhood was spent in exile. Humayun reconquered India in 1555, only to die, and the boy-king had to endure five years of regency before he came into his own. He stands out among Asiatic rulers as a determined leader and enlightened organizer. But the man was greater than the king. His interest in religion and philosophy, art and science is famous, but the distinguishing marks of his greatness were the questing intelligence and fearless judgment he consistently brought to bear upon the difficulties with which he was surrounded. He set himself to unite Hindu and Muslim India. He married into the ancient Rajput royal families, and