

GERMANY AND IRON-ORE SUPPLIES.

DURING the past year there have been continual references in the German technical Press and in the papers read before various technical societies to the immense importance of the Briey and Longwy iron-ore basins for German industry both during and after the war. Gradually the mask is being dropped in technical circles, where the facts are, of course, well known, and the hollow pretence that this war was a war of self-defence on the part of Germany is barely referred to, for these circles at any rate know that it is a war of aggression and spoliation. In February last Dr. M. Schlenker, Syndic of the Saarbrücken Chamber of Commerce, showed that the extraction of iron ore in the Briey basin amounted (calculated by iron contents) to 28 per cent. of the total German ore supply, this latter being made up as to 56 per cent. of domestic production and as to 44 per cent. of imported iron ore. He said that it must be described as a special stroke of good fortune that at the very commencement of the war Germany came into possession of the Briey ore basin, as without the French iron ores it would have been impossible for the German iron industry to cover its enormous requirements of munitions; on the other hand, France has lost, as the result of the operations of the war, 85 per cent. of its pre-war iron output. Dr. Schlenker takes for granted that Germany will retain possession of its spoil and thus remain "simply invulnerable in its most important sources of strength and power."

The same story was repeated even more emphatically at the meeting of the Union of German Iron and Steel Manufacturers at Berlin in December last, where it was pointed out that the German supplies of iron ore in the portion of Lorraine annexed in 1871 will be practically exhausted in forty to fifty years, and that the German iron industry needs the Briey ironfield in order to assure its continued existence. Here, again, the demand for the retention by Germany of the Briey and Longwy iron deposits is most insistently put forward.

Somewhat similar conclusions are reached by the writer of an article signed "Politicus" in the *Fortnightly Review* for the current month. After showing that throughout the history of the world Germany's aggressive militarism has been a constant danger to the world's civilisation, he discusses in detail the main sources of military power—namely, man-power and supplies of coal and iron. He indicates that to a considerable extent the former depends upon the latter, because industrial districts are always the most densely populated, and "the greatest centres of population occur on and around the great coalfields." The writer also emphasises the importance of the iron-ore question, though he employs statistics as old as 1910, and therefore not quite correct in the light of modern knowledge; this accounts for his statement that "Germany has by far the largest iron deposits in Europe. France comes second." Recent developments in France have somewhat

altered the position as it was known in 1910, and it is now recognised that the quantity of iron ore in France is but little less, and probably even greater, than that of Germany. This fact, however, strengthens rather than weakens his conclusions, which are that "Germany intends to retain the coal- and iron-bearing frontier lands upon which she has seized. . . . If Germany should be allowed to retain her conquests she would not only subject to herself millions of non-Germans, but she would absolutely dominate Europe with the coal and iron monopoly which the war would have given her, and she would thus be able to embark upon the final conquest of the world."

If any confirmation of the correctness of these views and of the real intentions of Germany is required, this is furnished by the recent speech of the German Chancellor, who gave a number of reasons why Germany should retain possession of Alsace-Lorraine, but carefully abstained from even hinting at their supreme economic importance to Germany.

H. L.

NOTES.

THE managers of the Royal Institution reported at a general meeting of members held on February 4 that Dr. Mond, under the conveyance and deed of trust of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory, covenanted to pay to the institution before the year 1926 the sum of 62,000*l.* as endowment fund. Dr. Mond's trustees have in the most generous way anticipated the obligation by eight years, and have transferred the sum of 66,500*l.* in 5 per cent. War Stock to the trustees, nominated by the managers, of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory Endowment Fund. This will add materially to the income available for the purpose of promoting and maintaining the efficiency of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory in the advancement of original research in chemical and physical science.

A MEETING was held at the rooms of the Royal Society of Arts on Monday, February 4, at the invitation of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, to consider the formation of a London Section of the British Association of Chemists. There was an attendance of about 300, including members of the Society of Chemical Industry, the Chemical Society, the Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Public Analysts, and the British Association of Chemists. Dr. Ling took the chair, and briefly explained the reasons for convening the meeting. Prof. Brame outlined the history of the British Association of Chemists and the course of the negotiations between that body and the Institute of Chemistry. Mr. Smith, on behalf of the British Association of Chemists, dealt with the need for some registration authority for chemists and the demand by chemists for a professional association which would not only improve the status of chemists, but also bring into the ranks of the chemist a larger number of well-equipped men than is now the case. He emphasised the importance of chemists from a national point of view, and invited the meeting to form a London Section of the association. After remarks by Prof. Donnan and other speakers, a resolution was passed, with few dissentients, for the formation of a London Section, and a provisional committee of eleven was appointed to proceed with the matter. Mr. Pilcher made a spirited defence of the Institute of Chemistry against some criticisms of that body, and stated that the institute was not antagonistic to the new association.