

had the advantage that at every meeting the papers were taken as read, and the leaders of the discussions could concentrate at once on the important points in theory or criticism of theory which they had set forth.

The subject of discussion at the first meeting was "Propositions: What They Are and How They Mean." The paper was by Mr. Bertrand Russell. It was the outcome of a philosophical research into the tenability of the behaviourist theory in psychology. The neutral monism which forms the basis of this theory had proved very attractive to Mr. Russell, and he put forward as his own view that it is true in so far as that the psychical and the physical are not distinguishable by the stuff of which they are made; but by the order of the causal laws to which they are amenable. He parted from behaviourism, however, on the question of "images." So far as he had been able to go at present, he was convinced that there are images, and he could see no way of interpreting them in physical terms. An interesting discussion followed, led by Dr. G. E. Moore, who presided.

The second meeting attracted the largest audience of the session. The subject was a symposium on "Instinct and the Unconscious," to which Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, Dr. C. S. Myers, Dr. C. G. Jung (of Zurich), Prof. Graham Wallas, Dr. J. Drever, and Dr. W. McDougall contributed. Sir Leslie Mackenzie presided. The interest of this discussion centred round the neurological and psychological discoveries in regard to war-neuroses. Dr. Jung received a warm welcome, and surprised everyone by the ease and fluency with which he expounded his theory in English. The theory created a lively impression. At a subsequent meeting its more philosophical aspect, particularly its relation to Bergson's doctrine of a vital impulse, was the subject of a discussion opened by Mr. J. W. Scott.

The third meeting was a symposium on "Space, Time, and Material: Are They, and if so in what Sense, the Ultimate Data of Science?" Sir Joseph Larmor presided. Sir Oliver Lodge, who had contributed one of the papers, was unavoidably absent, and a reply to a criticism of his thesis was read. The other contributors were Prof. A. N. Whitehead, Prof. J. W. Nicholson, Dr. Henry Head, Mrs. Adrian Stephen, and Prof. Wildon Carr. Two problems emerged in the discussion: the physical problem of continuity and the physiological problem of the nature of the mechanisms and neurological contrivances which condition conscious experience. Prof. Whitehead contended that the first chapter in science, *i.e.* in the systematisation of Nature, must deal with an event. Process is the fundamental fact which requires explanation; there is no element in experience prior to and simpler than an event.

The fourth meeting was devoted to the metaphysical problem of the relation of the finite to the infinite, or, in the terms of the symposium, "Can Finite Minds be Included in the Mind of God?" Lord Haldane presided. The papers were by the Dean of Carlisle, Dr. J. H. Muirhead, Dr. F. C. S. Schiller, and the Bishop of Down.

The fifth and final meeting was a symposium on "Is there 'Knowledge by Acquaintance'?" The papers were by Prof. G. Dawes Hicks, Dr. G. E. Moore, Dr. Beatrice Edgell, and Mr. C. D. Broad. Prof. W. R. Sorley was in the chair.

The dominant note in the discussions was, to most of those taking part, the physiological problem. Dr. Head's description of his researches, based on the treatment of war injuries, into the function of the cerebral cortex, and his theory of the survival of older responses beneath the superposed control of the higher centres, though freely criticised, was felt to have important consequences both for psychological and epistemological theory. Also, it left the impression

of a new and unsuspected approach to one another of science and philosophy.

The meeting in 1920 is to take place at Oxford, and it is intended to invite the participation of the Société Française de Philosophie.

#### A LEAGUE OF UNIVERSITIES.

A CONFERENCE of Universities was held at the Imperial Institute on July 18. It was convened in order that representatives of British universities, including such members of the universities of the King's Dominions overseas as are still in England in connection with the war, might take counsel with their colleagues from the U.S.A. Notwithstanding the difficulties created by Peace Day, especially in regard to finding hotel accommodation, the conference was well attended. The subject for discussion was the contemplated extension of the activities of the Universities Bureau. Representatives were invited to give expression to their views regarding the ways in which the Bureau might be of greater service to the universities.

The chairman, Sir Donald MacAlister, was able to announce that, the Treasury having, on the advice of the President of the Board of Education, promised to the Bureau a non-recurrent grant of 5000*l.*, provided the universities made adequate provision for its maintenance, almost all the universities of the United Kingdom had already adopted a proposal made at the last meeting of the conference for each to contribute a sum of 100*l.* per annum to the Bureau funds, and two of the university colleges had promised 50*l.* each. The Treasury grant is intended to enable the Bureau Committee to acquire and furnish premises suitable for the accommodation of the staff and for the reception of visiting professors and immigrant students from the Dominions and foreign countries. Probably in a short time it will be possible to announce the address of the new headquarters.

When the delegates who attended the congress of 1912 decided that it was desirable that a "clearing-house" for universities should be established, they were thinking of it chiefly as an agent for promoting co-operation amongst the universities of the Empire, although its international relations were not absent from their minds. No one then could have foreseen that during the autumn of 1914 and the year which followed, the secretary of the Bureau would be in correspondence with all the universities and colleges of the United States and other neutral countries, or sending them parcels of State papers, books, and pamphlets on the causes of a great war, the responsibility for it, and the moral issues which it raised. Nor could anyone have foreseen that, as an outcome of the war, there would be an urgent demand for co-operation amongst the universities of the Allied and neutral countries, and especially for the interchange of teachers and graduate students, on a scale which will appreciably affect our knowledge of one another's ways of thought and trend of sentiment.

All who look to the League of Nations as the only guarantee of peace recognise that one of its strongest supports would be a League of Universities. In illustration of what may be done to promote such a league, the nine representatives of the universities of the United Kingdom and Capt. Holme, who represented the universities of Australasia, gave an account of their experiences and of the impressions which they received during their recent visit to France as guests of the French Republic, and Dr. Fish, on behalf of Dr. Duggan, the director, who was detained in France, described the aims of the new American Institute of International Education.