

development proceeds once the science has advanced well beyond its nursing stage. The pace of these developments is disturbing only because man is ethically unprepared for the bounty which engineering science has brought him. The world has been made practically instant in its interchange of thought, and international co-operation and brotherhood has become much more than a dream, were man fit for the tremendous moral responsibility which the new gifts and potentialities of life entail. Due to the slow evolution of morals, he has, however, not yet learnt to command himself, to relinquish old habits of thought, sovereignty, independence, which are inconsistent with the command of Nature now put into his hands. If the future is uncertain, at least those whose labours have brought such riches to man may be concerned but not despondent. They cannot but believe with Sir Alfred Ewing that the creative ingenuity which has brought these gifts will yet stir man to achieve in the future the better distribution of leisure and labour and the fruits of labour, which are essential to the continued enjoyment of his new powers. So we find the engineer man of science of the present century voicing the ideals of the great biologist of two or three decades ago.

John Locke, 1632-1704

THE tercentenary of the birth of John Locke occurred on Aug. 29 last, and to mark the event Messrs. J. and E. Bumpas, Ltd., have brought together at the Old Court House, Oxford Street, London, W.1, a well displayed and comprehensive series of engravings, manuscripts, and printed books, including the first edition of Locke's celebrated "Essay on the Human Understanding", as well as letters from Boyle, Newton, Sloane, and other men of his period. The collections are mostly in the ownership of the Earl of Lovelace, having happily suffered no disturbance or vicissitudes since their original assignment within the family. Various special loans that have been received greatly enhance the personal, artistic, and literary interest of the series. Thus, the impressive three-quarters length portrait of Locke, from Christ Church, Oxford, is there, whilst recently Lord Lee of Fareham has sent in an early plaster statuette of Locke, by an Italian hand. A letter from Locke, as a schoolboy, to his father, tells of seeing a "company of Quakers" in Westminster Hall, on business bent, whose leader's hat was "shook off"—recalling that Charles II. removed his own hat in the presence of Penn, explaining that it was the custom at Whitehall for only one person at a time to remain covered.

JOHN LOCKE was proposed for the fellowship of the Royal Society, by Sir Paul Neile, on Nov. 19, 1668, and at a meeting in the following week he was elected and signed the charter book. In that year, too, the illustrious Marcello Malpighi was elected. On St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30, 1672, Locke was chosen a member of council, and Pepys and Evelyn were brought in at the same time. Earlier in the year, at an ordinary meeting held at Arundel House, Hooke had mentioned his interest in Otto von Guericke's experiments. There

was one which he thought deserved to be tried before the Society, namely, that of a sulphur ball, when revolved and rubbed, having a considerable attractive power, and representing the properties of the earth. Mr. Locke, so we learn, intimated that himself had made some experiments with such a ball, and promised that he would bring it to the Society at the next meeting. At that meeting, however (Hooke being present), when he was called upon, Locke excused himself; he had forgotten it, and promised it for the next. Thereafter nothing happened, and, as a matter of fact, Locke's interests in the philosopher's doings were eclipsed by other pregnant interests. He seems, though, to have maintained constant intercourse with Boyle, who signs as "Yr. very affectionate friend", saying he looks up to Locke as a virtuoso.

Report on the Post Office

THE Report of the Committee appointed "to inquire and report as to whether any changes in the constitution, status or system of organisation of the Post Office would be in the public interest" has now been published (Cmd. 4149. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 9d. net). The Committee, which consisted of Lord Bridgeman (chairman), Lord Plender, and Sir John Cadman, is of opinion that the total transference of all Post Office communication services to a public utility company or statutory corporation is impracticable, and is neither necessary nor desirable. The Committee considers that the main modification in the status of the Post Office which is required is in respect of its relationship to the Exchequer, and it is recommended that the contribution of the Post Office to the Exchequer should be fixed, for the next three years, at £11,500,000 plus 50 per cent of any cash surpluses in excess of that figure, the residue to be available for the improvement and development of Post Office facilities and services.

As regards organisation, the Committee recommends that the control of Post Office business should be effected through the medium of a functional board presided over by the Postmaster-General. In addition to the Assistant Postmaster-General, the board would comprise four or five members of the Post Office staff, such functions as general operating and supply, engineering and research, finance, and personnel being represented upon the board. A senior permanent member of the board would act as vice-chairman and would be styled 'Director-General', with the duty of ensuring that board decisions were made effective and that continuity and unity of policy were maintained. A decentralisation of administration is recommended under regional directors who would exercise jurisdiction over all the services. Stress is laid on the necessity for fluidity of interchange of staff between headquarters and the provinces. The Committee believes that under these proposals the engineer will be able to play a larger and more effective part in the determination and execution of policy, and it is considered that there should be no bar to a technical officer holding an administrative post, provided he has shown himself to possess administrative ability. Con-

tact with the public will be secured by means of an Advisory Council acting in a consultative capacity, and it will be consulted by the Postmaster-General on questions of general policy. The Report is obviously a document of first importance, and we hope to discuss the Committee's recommendations in due course.

Progress and the Scientific Worker

WITH the great changes inherent in modern civilisation, a new outlook has become essential. Science, the handmaiden of progress, cannot be divorced from industry, administration, social problems, etc.; and with this point of view in mind, the new series of *Progress*, which is being published as *Progress and the Scientific Worker*, aims at giving voice to the new citizenship. Necessarily, therefore, within its covers will be found the joint expressions of the scientific and humanistic outlook. This is made possible since it is the official journal of the Association of Scientific Workers and the British Institute of Social Service. *Progress*, the first bi-monthly number of which is for July-August 1932, has made a splendid beginning. Sir John Russell contributes an informative article on "The Coming Generation". He gives an interesting résumé of recent advances in the agricultural sciences. For example, in the harvesting of an acre of wheat, hand work of olden days involved 32 man hours, the early machine 19 man hours, and the modern machine 4 man hours. But the reduction of these man hours by mechanisation has its drawbacks. On one farm in Norfolk, for example, until recently, 40 men were employed, and now, since its 'mechanisation', only 4 are employed. One of the greatest problems of to-day, which will inevitably be handed on to the coming generation, is the employment of such displaced men.

CLOSELY allied to the problems discussed in this article is the paradox of plenty, which is the subject of an article by Mr. Percy Alden. There is a surplus throughout the world of wheat, cotton, tea, coffee, rubber, oil, and tin. Poverty-stricken countries are no doubt desirous of buying, but the purchasing power is absent. Now, there are, according to Mr. Alden, two essentials to recovery from this world-wide depression: international agreement over debts, reparations, and armaments, and an attempt to settle the currency question which is crippling industry in many countries. The inevitable connexion of industrial development with creative science forms the basis of Sir Richard Gregory's suggestive and illuminating article entitled "Science and the Nation". Sir Richard gives many convincing examples of the 'triple alliance' of creative science, purposeful invention, and skilled labour, and the resulting conditions, which have proved of national and international importance. "Science not only creates new means of existence and new sources of employment by the discovery of new principles and substances, but also places extended use of power at the disposal of every one. . . . Modern technical achievement and scientific thought foreshadow a new economic structure for society in which they should be used to exercise decisive influence upon the major politics of the State as well as upon

their administration." Through such activities unbounded possibilities are presented to the new generation, including the problem of the displaced manpower discussed by Sir John Russell. Besides other articles of general interest, the new journal contains scientific, social, industrial, and educational news, reviews, and notes. The price is 6d. per copy, and the annual subscription 5s.

Mohenjo-daro Dating

A FURTHER stage towards precision in the dating of the prehistoric civilisation of the Indus valley is marked by Mr. Ernest Mackay's letter to the *Times* of Aug. 27. Mr. Mackay records the discovery at Mohenjo-daro of a fragment of a steatite vase which bears exactly the same intricate and very unusual pattern as a double vase of the second period of Susa. It was found at a depth of 28 ft. below datum, very little above water-level in the soil when the river is at its lowest. The inference that it was an import from Elam is borne out by the material of the fragment, a greenish-grey steatite identical with that of the Susa II. double vase. A conservative estimate for the dating of Susa II. would place the Mohenjo-daro find at about 2800 B.C. On the other hand, Mr. Mackay points out that the seal, of undoubted Indian workmanship, found by Dr. H. Frankfort at Tell Asmar, is inscribed with animals which occur commonly on seals and sealings at Mohenjo-daro (although as yet only two cylinder seals have been found) and can be contemporaneous only with the upper levels of that site, occurring at some three to seven feet below datum. This, on the basis of Dr. Frankfort's dating of the Tell Asmar seal, would give a dating of 2500 B.C. for the upper levels at Mohenjo-daro—a reduction on the previous provisional dating. It would thus appear that between the lower levels, 28 ft. below datum, and the upper levels, contemporary with the period of the Tell Asmar find, some three hundred years elapse—a conclusion to which Mr. Mackay states that he already inclined on other grounds.

Protection of Antiquities in France

A QUESTION of much interest to archaeologists in general, though naturally of more immediate moment to French archaeologists, is raised by Dr. R. Vaufrey in the current issue of *L'Anthropologie* (t. 42, Nos. 3-4), in describing certain steps which have been taken by the Prehistoric Section of the Commission des Monuments historiques for the more efficient administration of the law relating to the protection of prehistoric antiquities. It would appear that French archaeologists are feeling some alarm lest they should be on the eve of a condition of affairs prophesied by M. Marcellin Boule more than forty years ago, when he foresaw that, unless effective measures were taken, France's priceless store of prehistoric antiquities in the Dordogne would be exhausted. In the opinion of prominent French archaeologists, that time is indeed close at hand. Every effort is to be made to avert it. Present financial conditions preclude anything in the nature of the creation of a department for the purpose, but steps are being taken to secure a stricter enforcement of the existing law. The Prehistoric Section of