

MR. PRATT then discussed the attitude of chemists to chemical warfare. He said that it has been suggested that chemists should bind themselves together and refuse to have anything to do with the manufacture of material which could be used in warfare. It has been stated that this scheme is not practicable because the chemical profession in most countries is not sufficiently organised and that it would require the co-operation of every nation, whereas the League of Nations itself has shown that it is impossible to get complete agreement on any matter of international policy. Another objection is that, in some countries, every citizen has to do as he is told, and in any event, in war, a man's first duty is to his country. In spite of these objections, Mr. Pratt insisted that the idea is worthy of further consideration because the alternative is so appalling that the chemist might well destroy the civilisation which he has been instrumental in creating, unless he insists that his inventions are not used for warlike purposes.

National Planning in Industry

THE need for sound national planning of industrial effort was emphasised in an address delivered before the Birmingham Group of the Institute of Industrial Administration on October 4, by Mr. Harold Macmillan, M.P., president of the Institute. Mr. Macmillan said that we have moved into a new economic society. The conditions of the nineteenth century world have passed away. In the old world Great Britain had great advantages. It was a pioneer nation and the workshop of the world, and on the whole the system was very satisfactory for the greater part of the nineteenth century. In the period preceding the War Great Britain exported capital to foreign countries, financed the market for its own exports and very largely developed the world. That system was very satisfactory while it lasted, but it has largely changed and to-day's problems have arisen almost entirely as the result of that change. The War quickened the pace, and the world has largely industrialised itself, economic nationalism prevails, and the balance of the world has been overthrown. The potential capacity to produce has increased at a rate far more rapid than the market to absorb.

AFTER referring to directions in which the War impeded British industry, Mr. Macmillan said that we have to face realities, and must not be content any longer to try to return to the past. We have to consider on what prosperity depends. It is the maintenance of certain balances—the balance between production and demand, and the monetary balance between the rate of saving and the rate at which savings re-enter a market in the form of investments. He does not think industrialists should be content to go on as industrialists in the same way as they did in the last two or three generations. Industrialists then did not bother themselves very much about monetary standards, but the last ten years have taught them how deeply concerned they are. National self-sufficiency is everywhere increasing. International trade barriers have to be overcome if the standard of living is not to fall.

Unco-ordinated competition among ourselves for the home market weakens resources for obtaining export trade. Capital must contribute by acquiescence in a planned industry, and by demanding high professional standards from management. Management has to contribute by the more efficient co-ordination of functional activities and the elimination of waste in every form, and labour has to contribute by full co-operation resulting from a greater confidence in an industry so planned and conducted.

Friedrich Tietjen, 1834-95

THE centenary occurs on October 15 of the birth of the German astronomer Friedrich Tietjen who, in 1881, with Tisserand, E. C. Pickering, Tempel and Gylden, was made a foreign associate of the Royal Astronomical Society. Born in a village in the duchy of Oldenburg, Tietjen left school at the age of fifteen years to work on his father's farm, but some years later, having relinquished his right to the farm, he was able to attend the Universities of Göttingen and Berlin, and in 1862 at twenty-eight years of age became an assistant under Encke at the Berlin Observatory. Three years later, he became first assistant to Foerster, Encke's successor, and this post he held until 1874. In 1866 he discovered a minor planet, and in the same year, with Albrecht, carried out geodetic operations in connexion with the Mid-European Survey. In 1868 he went to the East Indies with Spörer and Engelman to observe the solar eclipse of August 18. An indefatigable worker and a remarkably facile computer, in 1874 he was made editor of the "Berlin Jahrbuch" and four years later succeeded Bremiker as editor of the "Nautisches Jahrbuch". With Foerster he also managed a school of instruction in scientific computation. He died at the age of sixty years on June 21, 1895, having suffered from ill-health for several years.

Nazi Philosophy and Truth

IT would be difficult to find a more complete and cynical indifference to freedom of thought and intellectual expression than appears in the speech, as reported in the *Times* of October 6, delivered by Dr. Frank, the Reich Commissar for Justice, on October 4 to the joint meeting of the Association of German Jurists, the Foreign Political Department of the Nazi Party and the teachers of economics in universities and other places of higher education. Dr. Frank is reported to have said: "as the pursuit of knowledge is the service of truth it must necessarily be service to National-Socialism. We insist that the unity of the philosophy which lies at the basis of National-Socialism must not be challenged by anybody." The exclusive and inviolable identification of philosophic truth with the principles and ideas of a dominant political faction, has a familiar ring which would have provoked no surprise had it come from the mouth of a politician, but its uncompromising terms are startling when uttered by a commissar for justice, who has been responsible for the recent reorganisation of jurists throughout Germany. More was to follow. Dr. Frank went on to say, "Our aim