

News and Views

Television in the Home

ON the occasion of the opening of the Radio Exhibition, referred to on p. 410 of this issue, on August 26, an opportunity was provided by Messrs. Baird Television, Ltd., of witnessing the reception of the television programme broadcast from the B.B.C. station at Alexandra Palace. The demonstration was given on a standard Baird Televisor receiving set installed in the company's offices in Haymarket, under conditions which approximated to reception in the home. The receiving set was contained in a cabinet similar to the ordinary radio-gramophone, the picture on the screen of the cathode ray tube being viewed in a mirror in the raised lid of the cabinet. This picture was of such dimensions and height that it was comfortably visible by the viewer seated on a settee at a distance of about ten feet. The transmissions from the Alexandra Palace are, of course, only experimental; but the direct-vision pictures provided, including half or three-quarter length views of single persons, such as the announcer and a singer, were very satisfactory. The bulk of the programme, however, comprised the transmission of sound films, and while these were good on the whole, they emphasized the somewhat limited field of the vision picture by a loss of detail when this picture covered a large area or a crowd of persons. As an indication of the present-day possibilities of practical radio-television, however, this demonstration was most successful.

Dr. J. H. Hutton

It is announced that Dr. John Henry Hutton has been appointed a lecturer in the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology in the University of Cambridge, for a period of three years as from October 1. When the intention to appoint a lecturer in this Faculty was notified in the course of last term, it was intimated that a special knowledge of the peoples of India would be a requirement. In this respect, Dr. Hutton's qualifications are beyond question. As a member of the Indian Civil Service, which he entered in 1909 after taking his degree at Worcester College, Oxford, Dr. Hutton has made a special study of the ethnography of the Nagas of Assam. Not only is he himself the author of two of the volumes in the series of monographs published under the auspices of the Government of Assam, one dealing with the Angami Nagas (1921) and the other with the Sema Nagas (1922), as well as a contributor of numerous papers on Naga culture to scientific periodicals, but he has also so stimulated and organized the researches of his colleagues that the hill tribes of Assam are now as well, or even better known to anthropological science than any other comparable population of India. When Dr. Hutton was seconded under the Government of India to take charge of the Census of India, 1931, it was generally felt that no more suitable

selection could have been made. His introduction to the Report marked him as no unworthy successor to the late Sir Herbert Risley. However much opinions may differ as to the validity of the conclusions on the racial history of India at which Dr. Hutton arrived in that remarkable document, it cannot be denied that he has shown a notable breadth of outlook in grasping the essentials of his problem in their archaeological and historical perspective, combined with a detailed knowledge of the multifarious facts, which is without rival in the Indian field.

Economic and Military Armaments

IN the eighth Richard Cobden Lecture entitled "The Common Menace of Economic and Military Armaments" delivered on May 25 and now published (Cobden-Sanderson, Ltd., 1s. net), Prof. W. E. Rappard, discussing the relations between economic and military armaments, points out that as military armaments have contributed to the development of economic armaments, so the latter in turn have promoted the extension of military armaments by emphasizing the claims of the national State as against the rights of the individual and of mankind, and thereby increasing the tension in international relations. Both economic and military armaments are largely the legacy of past wars or the fruit of anticipation of future wars. Their primary source, however, is the doctrine of political nationalism which leads nations to look upon their own State as a universe in itself and therefore to disregard the rights of all others. A further source is in the present depression and in the efforts to overcome it by thorough-going State intervention.

BOTH economic and military armaments are weapons forged to enhance the independence, security and power of the national State. While a burden to the individual and a menace to the international community, they are incapable even at this price of truly fulfilling their professed purposes, and the present international situation must inevitably be aggravated by a persistent adherence to these methods. Discussing the difficulties due to the existence to-day of at least three Great Powers of professedly and defiantly nationalistic Governments, Prof. Rappard suggests that the problem of international peace resolves itself into one of national ideals and conversions. Unless these nations can be led to adopt a more humane and less exclusive creed, peace can only be maintained by the closest co-operation between all those States, which, while respecting their own as well as their neighbours' statehood, still believe in the legitimate rights of the individual and in the supreme rights of mankind. Without a federal organization of the international community, there can be no real liberty, no lasting peace and no true relief from economic and military armaments.