

two years ago with the title "The Myth of the Mystic East". In it he discussed Indian magic and miraculous cures. He insisted that there was little if anything in Indian medicine that was unknown to European medicine; and he was equally sceptical as to the Indian rope trick, as may be seen from an article on "Indian Conjuring" contributed by him to *NATURE* of September 12 last.

Of late years, Col. Elliot had taken a prominent part in the management of the British Health Resorts Association, and until his health broke down he made his driving force felt in whatever he undertook. His wife died some years ago; much sympathy will be extended to his three sons.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Captain H. J. Coningham, an authority on the geography of Asia Minor and the Caucasus, aged sixty-nine years.

Prof. Edwin O. Jordan, professor of bacteriology in the University of Chicago, known for his work on public health, on September 2, aged seventy years.

Prof. Oskar Klotz, professor of pathology and bacteriology in the University of Toronto, an authority on diseases of the arteries and the liver, on November 3, aged fifty-eight years.

Dr. Alfred Nippold, director of the Magnetic Observatory, Berlin, on October 4, aged sixty-two years.

News and Views

Rev. Wm. Tuckwell: a Pioneer of School Science

IN the first number of *NATURE* appeared an article by one of Huxley's friends, the Rev. Wm. Tuckwell, on "Science Teaching in Schools". Tuckwell was a pioneer in this work, and it was he who really first introduced a regular course of instruction amounting to no less than three hours per week per boy. The story of his career as headmaster of Taunton College School, now King's College, Taunton, is a long and interesting one. At first he met with extraordinary success, numbers of scholarships were won, and with the help of Henry Labouchere, Lord Taunton, and other influential friends the ancient school was moved to new quarters outside the town at a cost of £25,000. Then trouble arose owing to local clerical and conservative suspicion as to Tuckwell's orthodoxy; and after a furious controversy resignation was forced on him in 1877.

TUCKWELL was a man of wide culture, a good classical scholar, with a deep knowledge of English literature, and, although his work was apparently a failure, his methods were copied in schools all over the country. The school almost broke up when he left, but was later acquired by the Woodard Corporation and has since gradually risen in numbers to two hundred boarders. The pendulum has swung back again, and in 1934, Dr. R. D. Reid, a science graduate and the first layman for three hundred years, was appointed headmaster. He, wishing to recognize the work of his pioneering predecessor, sought out Mr. Tuckwell's surviving daughters, Lady Welsh, and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, C.H. They have presented many of their father's books and MSS. to the school library, including a much treasured first copy of *NATURE*. They also have erected a memorial to him in the school chapel, and this will be dedicated by the Chaplain, Bishop O'Rorke, on November 29, at 6 p.m., at which service any friends would be welcomed. King's College possesses what is believed the first school laboratory, erected by Tuckwell in 1868. It is still in use, but is shortly to be demolished.

Wilhelm Ebstein

NOVEMBER 27 marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the eminent German physician Prof. Wilhelm Ebstein. He was born at Jauer, in Silesia, and studied medicine in Breslau and Berlin, where he was the pupil of Frerichs, Virchow and Romberg. After qualifying in 1859, he became physician to the All Saints Hospital at Breslau, where he did valuable work on gastric secretion and dermatology, a subject in which he always took a keen interest. He served as a medical officer in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, and in 1874 was appointed professor of medicine and director of the Polyclinic at Göttingen, where he proved himself to be an indefatigable teacher, investigator and organizer, and created a model clinic well equipped with laboratories for scientific research. He was a remarkably prolific writer, as will be seen by the list of his works compiled by his son, the late medical historian Dr. Erich Ebstein (*Deut. Arch. Klin. Med.*, **89**, 367; 1907), but he is best known for his studies on obesity, gout and diabetes. His book on diabetes and its treatment was translated into French, Danish, Swedish and Russian, and one on the nature and treatment of gout into English and French. His historical contributions included articles on the Plague of Thucydides, the English Sweat, medicine in the Bible, Linnæus as physician, and the history of chicken-pox. He retired from his chair in 1906 at the age of seventy years, but remained in active consulting practice until a few days before his death from apoplexy on October 12, 1912.

Relation of Science to War and Defence

AT a public meeting organized by the Association of Scientific Workers, held at the Royal College of Science, London, on November 19, questions relating to "Defence and the Responsibilities of the Scientist" were discussed by a representative gathering of scientific workers. Prof. J. B. S. Haldane presided, and Prof. S. Chapman and Air Commodore L. E. O. Charlton opened the discussion. Prof. Chapman

denied the accusation that science is responsible for the horrors of war; dismissed the proposal that scientific workers should refuse to do war work as impracticable; urged them to join with the general public in order to take the necessary political action to stop the use of science for purposes of destruction, and suggested finally that the most suitable form of action would be the setting up of an international police force under the auspices of the League of Nations. Air Commodore Charlton showed how one of the principal technical achievements of our age, the aeroplane, has brought war to our doorstep, and has made the world population centres, such as London, the principal military objective in a future war. He presented quantitative evidence of the inadequacy of all known methods of defence, and urged scientific workers to devise something that would render the use of bombers impossible. In the subsequent discussion, attention was directed to the alternative policies advocated for avoiding war. The general consensus of opinion seemed to be in favour of some system of genuine collective security, and rejected both the isolationist and the pacifist solutions. J. D. Bernal reported the principal recommendations of the Science Section of the International Peace Conference held in Brussels last September. These included the proposal that scientific workers should apply scientific method to the study of war in all its aspects, to investigate the causes of war from the point of view of social and biological science, and to expose pseudo-scientific theories justifying war and racial superiority. It was finally proposed that a national commission representing all branches of science be set up to co-ordinate this work. These recommendations met with the warm support of the meeting.

Social Mission of Science

THE "Social Mission of Science", which formed the subject of a leading article in *NATURE* of October 24, has no more important objective, according to Prof. John Dewey, the veteran philosopher of Columbia University, than to elucidate the relation between authority and freedom. In his address at the Harvard Tercentenary Conference of Arts and Sciences on September 4 on "Authority and Resistance to Social Change" (*School and Society*, October 10), he exposed two fallacies underlying much of the philosophy that has gone by the name of liberalism, namely, that authority and freedom have separate and independent spheres of activity and no form of authority is justifiable that is not the product of, and sanctioned by, the conscious wants, efforts and satisfactions of individuals in their private capacity. While decrying the principle of authority, this philosophy, in fact, erected the wants and endeavours of private individuals seeking personal gain to the place of supreme authority in social life. Its failure to produce the conditions of a generally shared individual freedom is largely responsible for the recrudescence of the principle of authority in its most extreme and primitive form—the rise of dictatorships.

No collective planned economy, Prof. Dewey said, will succeed without some hitherto untried means for bringing into life an organic co-ordination of authority and freedom. It is here that science may help. It is suggested that the working of co-operative intelligence as displayed in science may serve as a working model of the union of freedom and authority. Here is seen individual freedom that is both supported by collective organized authority and, in turn, changes and is encouraged to change and develop by its own operation the authority upon which it depends. The extension to the wider field of human relations of the method of control by organized intelligence operating through the release of individual powers and capabilities presents enormous difficulties, but it is, Dewey holds, the only means whereby humanity can be rescued from "that futile and destructive oscillation between authoritative power and unregulated individual freedom to which we may justly attribute most of the sorrows and defeats of the past".

The Permanent International Studies Conference

THE report on the work of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation, submitted by the Sixth Committee to the Assembly of the League of Nations, refers to the expansion of the Permanent International Studies Conference, which is now engaged in an objective and scientific study of foreign policy. This is an autonomous body which is able to pursue its work in the complete independence proper to scientific research. The most recent subjects dealt with by the Conference are State intervention in economic life, the possibility and conditions of an organization of collective security, and peaceful methods of change as applied to particular problems. For 1936 and 1937, the subjects chosen include the procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes which have been applied in particular cases, over-population, colonies, migration and distribution of raw materials. In the field of education, an important result of the year's work of the Committee has been the publication by the Paris Institute of a first volume dealing with the organization of higher education and research in several European and American countries, while the Committee's efforts in the teaching of history are bearing fruit in the revision of text-books.

SPECIAL interest is attached to the attention which the International Committee is now giving to the question of unemployment among intellectual workers. While this question cannot be separated from the problem of unemployment as a whole, and the remedies to be recommended are chiefly national in character, international action may be of great value, particularly in the nature of co-operation between university information bureaux. Closer relations are being established between the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation and the International Council of Scientific Unions, and a permanent scientific committee is being set up as a result of the meeting of an expert committee to develop the Organisation's work in this field, and conversations on scientific