

## News and Views

### World Congress of Faiths (Continuation Movement)

As a result of the first World Congress of Faiths held in London in July 1936 (see *NATURE*, 138, 1; 155) a Continuation Movement to promote further the objects of the Congress was inaugurated with the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda as international president and Sir Francis Younghusband as chairman. It is now announced that a week-end intensive Congress will be held at Oxford on July 23-27, when the subject for deliberation will be "The World's Need of Religion". Addresses for discussion will be delivered by members from the different religions, and devotional meetings will be led by representatives of the various faiths. A symposium on "Can Politics replace Religion?" will be conducted from three distinctive points of view, and at a public meeting to be held in the Oxford Town Hall on the evening of July 24 addresses will be given on the subject of "The World's Need of Religion". It may be recalled that the Congress was organized to promote a spirit of fellowship among mankind through religion, and "to awaken and develop a world loyalty, while allowing full play for the diversity of men, nations and faiths". It is, therefore, essentially a movement that is both international and inter-denominational in the broadest sense of the term.

At the successful London meeting, a large number of distinguished and representative members of the great religious faiths of the world were present, and spoke in support of the objects of the Congress, more especially in so far as they were directed to the promotion of world peace through the co-operation of men of the spirit in all countries and of all faiths. Since, however, the spirit of fellowship, which it is believed by promoters of the Congress is latent in man, needs to be intensified if it is to work out its effect to the full, the Continuation Movement seeks support with that end in view. Particulars of the Oxford meeting, at which accommodation for members will be provided at Balliol and Somerville Colleges, forms of application for membership, etc., are to be obtained from the Secretary, World Congress of Faiths, B/M Congress, London, W.C.1.

### Cultural Contrast and Government in India

THE debate in the House of Lords on April 8 on the situation in India arising out of the inauguration of the new constitution made apparent, in the gravity of the issues shown to be involved, the need for a common idiom as between races and creeds such as is sought by the World Congress of Faiths. The lucid and well-balanced statement by the Marquess of Zetland in particular brought into high relief the justice of the frequently repeated contention that, in the clash of culture contact, understanding grounded on a knowledge of local culture and history

alone can alleviate and remove the inevitable misconceptions and friction, which arise in the fusion of mutually alien civilizations. In India, the freedom of democratic institutions, notwithstanding the misgivings expressed by those who claimed with reason an understanding of Eastern mentality, has been bestowed upon an oriental community, which has behind it a lengthy tradition, extending over centuries and even thousands of years, of submission to autocratic control. The resulting conflict, if the intransigence of the extremists of the Congress Party be ignored, is expressed on one side in Mr. Gandhi's explanation and amplification of the demand for the unqualified and unconstitutional abrogation of the powers of the Provincial Governors, and on the other in Lord Lothian's letter to *The Times* of April 6 and Lord Zetland's speech in the House of Lords. On one hand, the British Government and the British people are willing and anxious now that the die has been cast, to give every freedom to the peoples of India to win their way through responsible government to a position of independence within the Empire, yet they are at a loss before the naive simplicity of the over-subtle Eastern mind; on the other hand, Mr. Gandhi, who, whatever opinion may be held of his policy and political methods in the past, embodies, especially in the eyes of his co-religionists, all that is best and highest in Hindu culture, in common with others of his creed is unable to enter into an understanding of an honestly intended generosity which rests upon no legal bond as he understands it.

### Hours of Employment of Young Persons

A SERIOUS gap in our social legislation is exposed by the report of the Committee on the Hours of Employment of Young Persons. Since the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901 and the Shops Act of 1934, limits have been set to the number of hours during which a young person may work, as well as to the amount of overtime and night work. A large class, estimated by the Committee at 125,000, still remains which is not covered by this legislation and is liable to be grossly overworked. This class consists mainly of van boys, hotel pages, messengers, cinema ushers, and the like. The chief objections to these forms of employment are that they are often spread out over long hours, that in busy periods there is no limit to the possible overtime that may be demanded and that often the jobs lead nowhere. That such a position should arise in so new an industry as the cinema industry indicates how sadly overdue is a real attempt to deal with recruitment on quantitative as well as qualitative lines, and the whole report strengthens the case for a scientific approach to the question of recruitment. The recommendations of the Committee include fixed hours, intervals for rest, weekly holidays,



strictly limited overtime for young persons more than sixteen years of age and its prohibition for those less than sixteen, as well as prohibition of night work for a period of 11 hours, and it is considered essential that immediate steps be taken to give statutory protection to the unregulated young persons covered by the Report. It is recommended that the regulation of the hours of work of those employed in connexion with factories, docks and warehouses should be entrusted to the Factory Department of the Home Office and, for the remainder, to the local authorities responsible for administering the Shops Acts.

#### Traffic in Women and Children in the East

A CONFERENCE of Central Authorities in Eastern Countries on the Traffic in Women and Children in the East opened at Bandoeng, Java, on February 2, as the outcome of investigations in 1930-31 by the League of Nations' Commission of Enquiry into the Traffic in Women and Children in the East. This Commission established that the international traffic in Oriental women and girls in the Near, Middle and Far East is, in the aggregate, large. The bulk of this traffic is Asiatic women from one country to another, mainly in victims of Chinese race, Japanese, including Korean and Formosan, coming next in numerical importance, and other nationalities being very much less represented. Traffic in Occidental women to the East, with certain exceptions, chiefly in the Mediterranean Near East, has markedly decreased. The agenda of the Conference consisted of six points covering the chief suggestions of the report for closer collaboration between central and other authorities; and between authorities and voluntary organizations; the protection of migrants, especially minors, victims, or potential victims, of the traffic; the employment of women officials; the question of the continued existence of licensed or tolerated houses, which are the chief agents of internal and international traffic in the Indian and Pacific Oceans; and problems involved in the position of women of Russian origin in the Far East. Nine Governments, including the United Kingdom (Governments of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Hong Kong), China, France, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Siam and the United States of America participated, as well as representatives of the International Criminal Police Commission.

#### Exhibition of Chemical Engineering

AN exhibition, Achema VIII, devoted to chemical technology, in which nearly three hundred firms have already arranged to take part, will be held in Frankfurt-on-Main on July 2-11. Concurrent with the exhibition will be held the National Congress of German Chemists, the semi-centenary of the Verein Deutscher Chemiker, thereby providing the organizers of the exhibition with a unique opportunity of establishing the importance of the chemical engineer to the modern industrial community. The Hohenzollernplatz near to the University has been selected as the site of the exhibition, which will be housed in

four separate buildings. In the first of these buildings, having a floor area of 125,000 square feet and subdivided into three sections, termed Halls I, II and IIIa in the official foreword, will be shown scientific apparatus including measuring, regulating and laboratory equipment, technical plant constructed from non-metallic materials, as well as machines for the manufacture, machining and shaping of synthetic materials. Two buildings, namely Hall III, having a floor area of 20,000 square feet, and Hall IV, with a floor area of 100,000 square feet, will be used to display technical equipment on a large scale such as machines and complete plants for the chemical and associated industries and similar exhibits. The last building is again subdivided into two parts, namely Hall IIIa with a floor area of 10,000 square feet which will be devoted to that part of the chemical industry engaged on the production of, and spinning of, artificial fibres, and Hall IIIb with a floor space of 5,000 square feet in which will be shown the publications of the various German scientific associations and societies. Arrangements have also been made for special meetings, conducted tours, showing of industrial films, excursions for visitors to the exhibition. Further information can be obtained about the meeting by application to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chemisches Apparatewesen EV, Achema Bureau, Berlin W 35, Potsdamer Strasse 103a.

#### Broadcasting in 1936

A REVIEW of the activities of the British Broadcasting Corporation during 1936 is given in the tenth annual report of the Corporation, which has recently been issued as a white paper (Cmd. 5406. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 6d. net). The year 1936 was conspicuous in the first instance because three successive kings were involved in turn in certain of the broadcast programmes. The report contains details of the outstanding items in a wide variety of programmes broadcast throughout the year, during which the home transmitters were in operation for 71,123 hours, of which the proportion of breakdown periods was 0.031 per cent. The corresponding aggregate time for the Empire transmitters was 16,577 hours, an increase of more than forty per cent on the figure for 1935. Apart from the maintenance of the stations and plant required for these services, the activities of the B.B.C. on the engineering side included the putting into service of the high-power transmitter at Lisnagarvey in Northern Ireland, the completion of a similar transmitter at Burghead in the north of Scotland and the construction of a medium power transmitter at Beaumaris in Anglesey, which has been put into service in the current year. Good progress has also been made with large-scale extensions to the Empire Station at Daventry. These include the commencement of a third transmitter of considerably higher power than those now in operation; together with the erection of additional masts for an improved aerial system, which is the outcome of experiments carried out at the Empire Station since it was first put into service in 1932.