

January, Capt. A. L. Kennedy gives an admirable survey of the services rendered by the League of Nations technical organizations in non-political fields. He stresses the value of the resettlement of populations in Greece under the League Commission as a contribution to European peace and indicates the need for dealing with questions of refugees and minorities which still persists. In regard to opium, the co-operation established at Geneva has resulted in a central office which maintains supervision over a complete branch of economic activity, from the import of the raw material to the consumption of the manufactured article and in checking its transport from one country to another. This achievement has, however, set the League the even harder task of suppressing the illegitimate traffic which still flourishes to a serious extent and also the task of controlling the raw material. Again, the League has provided a central body for collating and directing measures against the traffic in women and children, and it has every claim to be regarded as the world's ministry of health, not only co-ordinating health work in different countries, as well as research and standardization but also, as in the Singapore Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau, providing an intelligence service for the prevention of epidemics. Capt. Kennedy writes appreciatively of services rendered to China before the onslaught of Japan occurred as well as to the reconstruction work in Austria, the work of the Mandates Commission and of the International Labour Office and the Permanent Court of International Justice. This well-balanced assembly of facts leaves no room for doubt that if the failure to use the League in the political sphere led to its abandonment, we should require an exactly similar organization to carry on its present non-political activities if both nations and individuals are not to be deprived of services which have given and are giving them relief from want and suffering, higher moral and material standards and opportunities of a useful life.

Scientific Research in New Zealand

THE eleventh annual report of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand, covers the year 1936-37, and, in addition to the secretary's report and the reports of the research committees of the Council, includes the reports of the Dominion Laboratory, the Geological Survey Branch, the Meteorological Branch and the Dominion, Apia and Magnetic Observatories. The Minister's covering statement refers to the establishment of a Bureau of Social Science Research, the work of which will include the co-ordination of the activities of research bodies or individuals in this field and the undertaking of investigations to assist the Government by providing the factual bases for social policy measures. Outstanding developments of the year were the reorganization of plant research under the Plant Research Bureau and the steps taken to establish an Animal Research Bureau. The Plant Diseases Division of the former Bureau has made good progress in the study of virus diseases of farm crops, par-

ticularly tobacco, and has also completed comparative trials of new organic mercury dusts. Diseases of tomatoes and potatoes, etc., have also been investigated, and the Entomological Division of the Bureau has obtained satisfactory results in the biological control of the white butterfly, although new lines of attack for the control of the diamond black moth have been necessary. The Dairy Research Institute has made further progress in its study of the control of gas-producing organisms which cause openness in cheese, and has continued its studies of the elimination of the feed taint in butter and cream from certain districts.

THE Wheat Research Institute has continued to expand its long-range work on wheat breeding, while the Leather Research Laboratory has given special attention to methods of assessing the quality of leather as a guide to improvements. A particular group of chemical constituents has been studied in relation to the wearing-value of leather. An extensive programme of fruit research has included an attack on the problem of the mouldy core of apples and the control of internal cork of apples, while the soil and land utilization survey has been continued to give a fairly complete picture of the agricultural resources of the Hawke's Bay province. Other features of the year have been the establishment of the Standards Institute, which has already done much to promote the adoption of standards and establish committees and sub-committees covering a wide range of subjects. Evidence is already available of the benefits of this work to the Dominion. Research associations have been developed during the year in connexion with the tobacco, wool manufacturing and footwear manufacturing industries, and a feature of staff appointments during the year has been the recruitment of New Zealand science graduates who had migrated overseas. Of the total expenditure of £131,957 of the Department, £71,233 is on research investigations, £13,268 of which is derived from industries and £13,243 from sales and miscellaneous recoveries. Expenditure on the Dominion Laboratory was £17,261 and on the Meteorological Office £12,069.

The Ontario Research Foundation

THE report of the Ontario Research Foundation for 1936 refers to the increased work carried out for industry. Two new laboratories for research on paints and on air-conditioning are now running smoothly. In the former, investigations on weathering tests and chemical analysis of white house paints, weathering of structural metal paints, etc., are in progress, while the latter is investigating the 'summer' comfort requirements in regard to temperature and humidity of people in Toronto. The work of the Textiles Division has been concerned with the development of a textile oil for use in processing woollen materials as well as with the development of a process for high-resistance tussler silk for electrical insulation purposes, and with processes for the reduction of shrinkage in textile materials. The Division of Engineering and Metallurgy has continued its studies