

conditions in which careful attention to the smallest details was essential for diagnosis and treatment, and to this characteristic may be attributed his success in dealing with fractures, with lesions of peripheral nerves, and with affections of the sympathetic nervous system. For many years his health was indifferent, and his work was carried on often in discomfort and not infrequently in pain; and it is a sad reflection that his last major contribution to surgical literature was a translation of Prof. Leriche's monograph on pain.

A man of the highest integrity and professional

ideals, and of uncompromising opinions, Prof. Young instilled into all his students his example of steadfast devotion to duty.
J. R. LEARMONTH.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. W. C. Mansfield, geologist of the U.S. Geological Survey, on July 24, aged sixty-five years.

Dr. A. H. Trow, formerly principal of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, professor of botany in the College during 1905-18, on August 26.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Science and the National Ideal

THE world stands on the brink of the abyss. Before these words appear in print, it may have taken the plunge; and ten million men will already have entered on the initial phase of a struggle, of which none can foresee the end, except it be in disaster. The efforts of those, who during the last twenty years have striven to reconstruct a civilization shaken to its foundations by the war of 1914-18, have been frustrated by the incompatibility of their aims with the exclusive methods of national regeneration. In all the antagonisms of recent years, the voice of science, except where throttled by the political partisan, has been steadfast in support of freedom of thought and toleration—to those of this way of thinking, essentials of social and intellectual advance, but now threatened root and branch by the aggressions of a totalitarian nationalism.

SIR ARTHUR KEITH (*Sunday Times*, August 27), while admitting the close kinship of exclusive nationalism with the tribalism of the barbaric Dark Ages, sees in its spirit the mechanism of progressive development, and contrasts it with a cosmopolitanism which is lacking in force and colour. But in this contrast is he not guilty of a false antithesis, to which he is led by a too crude and outmoded interpretation of the Darwinian's force of natural selection? In the history of civilization, the struggle for existence has been resolved from one of brute force into a struggle for survival among ideas. Too true that often advancement has come about, and the world being what it is, must still at times come about by the aid of the driving force of the national idea. But more and more the struggle loses the character of national rivalry and becomes one in which we move, slowly it may be, towards a world order, which is not merely an undifferentiated cosmopolitan universalism, but an order to which each group, be it people, nation, or empire, by the development of its traditional culture to its highest power, may contribute something towards the common good

and advancement of mankind as a whole. This is the faith and the ideal of a nationalism to which science must cling fast at all costs.

Education to Meet the Challenge to Democracy

SOME two thousand representatives of parents and teachers in the United States recently met at Cincinnati to discuss "The Purposes of Education in American Democracy" under the four heads: self-realization, human relationships, economic efficiency and civic responsibility. The proceedings culminated with a remarkable address by the president of the University of Wisconsin. American education, he said, entrusted as it has been to local inspiration, leadership and control, with emphasis on individual rights and individual liberty and but little sense of national responsibility, has for generations taught values which no longer conduce to a proper understanding of a world infested everywhere by a highly organized and efficient system of vilification and ridicule of the whole theory and method of democracy. The dictators are cultivating a common interest and a new goal; telling the masses that to save one's life one must lose it in devotion to a common social ideal. How can this be countered in a society split into groups which are at war with each other on political, social and economic fronts? Only by engendering an overriding devotion to what it wholeheartedly believes to be a worthier common social ideal. "Only a dynamic democracy can cope with a fact-facing fascism." The need is urgent. Only a conscious educational programme can produce the requisite sense of common purpose and common sacrifice, active, steady and constant. It "calls first of all for an understanding of democracy as a way of life and a nourishing of the underlying values upon which society depends for its existence. . . . Education must face this issue or lose its liberty and its opportunity". The address is reported in the July issue of *School Life*, the official organ of the Office of Education.

Use and Misuse of Science

IN his presidential address "The Use and Misuse of Science" to the Royal Society of New South Wales, which has been reprinted in part from the *Journal and Proceedings of the Society*, Prof. J. C. Earl points out that control over Nature involves not merely the knowledge that in certain circumstances a known natural phenomenon will occur, but also the ability to arrange the stage so that the occurrence takes place when and where we will. Knowledge may be power, but it remains inactive until a conscious effort is made to use it. We can use the power we have constructively or destructively, and this responsibility cannot be regarded lightly. Our conduct must be determined by some motive and the moral issue cannot be evaded. Discussing the use of science, Prof. Earl termed research associated with the use rather than the extension of knowledge, secondary scientific research, in contrast to primary scientific research, which is concerned with the extension of knowledge as such. The latter he considered an essential duty of a university, the discharge of which would foster its other duty of maintaining cultural traditions. He urged that the tendency to foster secondary rather than primary research in the universities of Australia with the resources now available was dangerous and that the claims of the latter required more energetic support from within and without. In urging this larger and keener interest in fundamental work, Prof. Earl did not suggest, however, that secondary scientific work was less important, and he referred to the need for scientific work in Australia on Australian products.

Mental Disease and War

IN a recent essay (*Hibbert J.*, 37, 513; 1939) on mental disease as a factor in the causation of war, Dr. Olof Kinberg, professor of forensic psychiatry at the University of Stockholm, remarks that though it is growing increasingly clear that war as a means of solving social problems is utterly futile, for the remedy is worse than the disease, many large countries are seeking to imbue even their children with an admiration for war and to do all they can to represent it as the most glorious exposition of national greatness, while other countries are making every possible effort to avoid war, though they are compelled to build up enormous armaments. Prof. Kinberg discusses some of the psychological features of modern society which may help to explain this paradoxical state of affairs. He points out that in order to mould public opinion the ruler must transform private citizens into a psychological mass and keep them in that condition for a considerable time. The production of this mass is brought about by the Press and the radio being in the hands of the Government, the formation of a bulwark against criticism and the persecution and destruction of anyone who dares to entertain different opinions.

PROF. KINBERG directs attention to the likeness between the qualities of the national mass and the paranoid personality which is characterized by

touchiness, egoism, quarrelsomeness, inability to judge its own affairs impartially and a conceit and arrogance which sometimes takes the form of megalomania. At the same time the mass adopts towards its leader, however shabby and obscure his past may be, an attitude of servile submission which contains a strong infusion of magic and mysticism. A continuous interaction takes place between the national mass, whose passions are kept at boiling point, and the leader, who has himself shown from the onset abnormal psychical features of a paranoid character. Such a state of affairs, according to Prof. Kinberg, has been exemplified from the French revolution down to the revolutions of the present day.

Eiderdown Industry and Protection of Eider-Ducks

THE numerous islands which border the north coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence have long been a breeding ground of eiderducks. But it is only since 1933 that a supervised industry in the collecting and marketing of eiderdown has been established. During the past six years the export of cleaned eiderdown has increased five-fold, and the recognition of the value of the birds has led to active protection and encouragement of an increasing stock of nesting ducks. Where the eiderdown industry has been established severe penalties are enforced for their destruction or molestation. The collection of the down, it is reported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, does not interfere with the regular hatching of the eggs, and as a result of this and of protection the colonies of eiders have been steadily increasing in numbers. For the purpose of eiderdown production, residents of the Gulf-shore area now lease from the Province of Quebec suitable coastal islands at a nominal rental for a period of five years, and each lessee is supplied with a permit under the Migratory Birds Convention Act authorizing him to collect, possess and sell eiderdown taken from the nests in his leased area. We trust that a close watch will be kept upon this new industry and that definite counts will be made by scientific observers at periodic intervals to test the effect of the trade upon the number of birds. The conditions of the leases granted to the down collectors are unknown to us, but it is hoped that some provision is made to check what might easily develop into ruthless destruction at the close of a period of lease, if the lessee suspected that renewal might not be granted.

Re-organization of the Cotton Industry

THE Cotton Industry (Reorganization) Act, which has since reached the Statute Book, is the subject of a further broadsheet issued by P E P (Political and Economic Planning). The Cotton Industry Board to be appointed by the Board of Trade will be representative of all sections of the industry in addition to having three independent whole-time members, including the chairman, with special knowledge of the industry. The Board will appoint, partly from among its own members, a special Export Development Committee, which will have the particular