

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Universities and War

APART from the University of London, the rest of the universities of the British Isles are aiming at carrying on their work at their present posts, so far as is possible. A few departments and faculties of various universities have, we understand, made tentative arrangements to move to other quarters; but at present no steps have been taken. Dates for the beginning of the new term have been changed in certain cases. The University of Liverpool is to carry on at Liverpool, though instruction in certain faculties and departments will also be given at Harlech College on Cardigan Bay. Accommodation in certain colleges in Wales has also been acquired by that university, and will be used if necessary. So far as can be ascertained, the University of London is making the following changes: Administration—Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green, Surrey; Examinations—Courleigh, The Cleves, Reigate; University College—Aberystwyth (men), University of Sheffield (women); King's College—University of Bristol; Institute of Education—University College, Nottingham; Imperial College of Science and Technology—University of Edinburgh (Mining Department—Camborne, Cornwall); Queen Mary College—King's College, Cambridge; London School of Economics and Political Science—Peterhouse, Cambridge; School of Oriental Studies—Cambridge; Bedford College for Women—Girton College, Cambridge; Westfield College—St. Peter's Hall, Oxford; Goldsmiths' College—University College, Nottingham. The medical schools of the University are being distributed among several centres in Great Britain.

Blood-group Tests of Paternity

THE House of Lords Select Committee, to which the Bastardy (Blood Tests) Bill was referred after its second reading in February last (see NATURE, Feb. 18, p. 294), has now made its report. It will be remembered that this Bill, which was introduced in the House of Lords in December, 1938, by Lord Merthyr, sought to enable courts of summary jurisdiction to order blood-group tests to be made in bastardy cases. The chairman of the House of Lords Committee was Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, and included among its members were Lord Dawson of Penn and the Bishop of Salisbury. The Committee gave it as its unanimous opinion that the qualities of blood underlying blood-grouping and the laws of inheritance governing the transmission of these qualities from parents to children are accepted by such a consensus of scientific opinion as to render it desirable in the interests of justice for this knowledge to be applicable to affiliation cases. After certain amendments, it recommended that the Bill be passed

into law. It was stressed by the Committee that although the tests can exclude paternity in about one case out of three only, nevertheless the tests might prevent injustice. The Committee was also satisfied that the risk of error in making blood-tests has been reduced to negligible proportions; and it noted that the public is becoming ready to accept the positive verdict of science when its evidence declares against the implication of paternity to a given individual. It is indeed remarkable—and the Committee commented on the fact—how great was the preponderance of opinion among medical and legal witnesses in favour of the use of blood-tests as evidence in affiliation cases; while, of such criticisms as were offered, none disputed the validity of blood-tests as evidence.

Blood Groups and Paternity

A FURTHER refinement in the use of blood groups as a test of paternity was indicated by Dr. V. Friedenreich of Copenhagen at the seventh International Congress of Genetics which was held in Edinburgh immediately before the outbreak of war. Dr. Friedenreich, as reported in the *Lancet* of September 16, described the division of the *A* group into three varieties; A_1 is dominant to A_2 and A_3 , and A_2 to A_3 ; A_3 is very rare. The distinction between A_1 and A_2 is already employed medicolegally on the Continent, thereby increasing the proportion of cases in which false accusations of paternity can be disproved. Reference to the important work of Dahr indicated a still further possibility of discrimination in that persons of constitution AA may soon be distinguished from those of constitution AO , a point of very considerable evidential value in the legal sense. From the anthropological point of view, the occurrence and distribution of groups *A* and *B* in both anthropoid apes and man constitutes a problem—so much so, indeed, that Dr. G. Montandon, of Paris, goes so far as to deny on this ground that it has any evidential value whatsoever as a criterion of race in man. Prof. Ruggles Gates, however, in a communication to the Congress at Edinburgh, argued that while gene *A* probably arose in the common ancestors of anthropoid apes and man, gene *B* in all probability arose much later by parallel mutation in both stocks.

Prehistoric Indian Village, New Mexico

AN expedition of the American Museum of Natural History of New York, under the leadership of Dr. Paul S. Martin, has been engaged in the examination and excavation of a number of Indian village sites in the mountainous region of western New Mexico. The villages are situated just off the route followed by the Spanish conquistador Coronado in his