

She was also an artist of no mean calibre. She had many delightful water-colour sketches to her credit. Her literary tastes were often reflected in her lectures, which, though not always easy to follow, were a delight to hear.

Hers was such a personality that she will be remembered affectionately by many of her former students when some of their more brilliantly scientific and successful teachers have been forgotten. It is an irony of fate that a woman who argued and worked for peace so unflinchingly should have met her death on Armistice Day.

Dr. Prankerd leaves her mother to whom she was devoted and to whom our deepest sympathies are extended.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Prof. F. Angell, emeritus professor of psychology in Stanford University, on November 2, aged eighty-two years.

Prof. Charles Barrois, formerly professor of geology in the University of Lille, on November 8.

Mr. C. J. Bond, C.M.G., a former member of the Industrial Health Research and of the Medical Research Board, on November 23, aged eighty-three years.

Mr. Wilfred Trotter, F.R.S., sergeant surgeon to H.M. the King, and consulting surgeon at University College Hospital, on November 25, aged sixty-seven years.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Pithecanthropus and Peking Man: Comparative Studies

By a happy and fruitful conjunction in comparative study of old and new material, Dr. G. H. R. Koenigswald, of Bandoeng, Java, and Prof. Franz Weidenreich of the Peking Cenozoic Research Laboratory, are able to record in another column of this issue of NATURE (see p. 926) some remarkable observations bearing on the relationship between those early fossil hominids, or precursors of man, Pithecanthropus of Java and Peking man. In the further light now thrown upon the problem of the descent of man by recent discoveries of both Sinanthropus and Pithecanthropus—of the former, some still undescribed, of the latter, some of the more important made only in the current year in response to intensified search—the authors demonstrate by detailed comparison not only the essentially human affinities of Pithecanthropus, which Dubois, its first discoverer, has come to question, but also the very close affinity of Pithecanthropus to Sinanthropus, of whose right to stand in the line of human descent no doubt has ever been raised. Further, among the latest Pithecanthropus material to be discovered is an upper jaw, which in the separation of canines from incisors presents a character hitherto regarded as distinctively Simian. The appearance of this character in Pithecanthropus is notable as it has been adduced as an argument in discussion of the Piltdown jaw. By far the most interesting and significant result to emerge is, however, not so much the affinities of the two groups of fossil remains as their differences, in which not only now one now the other exhibits an approach to modern man, but these differences also indicate that the variability, which is so marked a feature in the individual specimens of Sinanthropus, is almost equally striking when the two groups are compared each as a whole. In other words, there is evidence even at this comparatively early stage of human evolution of a variation which may be termed racial. Of the authors' pregnant allusions to the position of

Homo soloensis, no more need be said here than to express a confident hope of further light from an equally fruitful collaboration.

Anthropometry and the War

In a written reply in the House of Commons under date September 28, to a question in reference to offers from ex-officer anthropologists to conduct an anthropometric survey of H.M. Forces, Sir Victor Warrender, financial secretary, War Office, stated that he was advised that "though such a survey might be of scientific interest, it is impossible in present circumstances to carry it out, owing to the time which would be required for the purpose". Captain A. G. Pape, by whom the attention of NATURE has been directed to the passage in *Hansard* reporting question and author (September 28, 1939, p. 1516), writes strongly urging the need and advantages of such a survey, which, he informs us, he himself had suggested to the authorities with the offer of his services. Readers of NATURE will scarcely need to be reminded of the deplorable gap in evidence relating to the constitution of the British population, owing to the lack of systematic records of physical characters and other anthropometric data. The survey contemplated by Captain Pape, however, is apparently of a far more extensive character, and would include observations demanding the services of medical and psychological specialists, and an extension to the rising generation through an organization embracing both university and school. Strong though the argument for an anthropometric record of the population may be—the need will be much more insistent when post-war measures of social amelioration have to be considered—it is probably quite inevitable that in so far as regards H.M. Forces, the time factor is all-decisive. While opportunity might possibly be found to examine troops serving in the field or in training, these subjects would not be representative of an average sample of the popula-

tion; and the measurement and recording of the minimum observations of any value of men as they are brought up for enrolment in the Forces, who would more nearly approach the standard of the general population, would overburden the medical officer, who already protests against the inadequate time allowed for individual examination owing to pressure of numbers.

The Settlement of Europe

THE admirable broadsheet "European Order and World Order" issued by Political and Economic Planning (PEP), a summary of which appears on p. 948 of this issue, should go far to clarify the confusion which has resulted from the use in current discussions of such terms as 'war aims' and 'peace aims'. The terms on which the belligerent powers will make peace can scarcely be usefully discussed until the outcome of the war is known. On the other hand, neutrals as well as belligerents will have to consider far-reaching measures for reconstruction and for establishing a new international order. This post-war question of reconstruction requires immediate discussion and study if a settlement which is both technically possible and politically acceptable is to be found. No international conference can be expected to do more than put into final form and ratify measures which have already been worked out by experts and approved by the political advisers of all the countries concerned. Moreover, it is neither necessary nor desirable that the reconstruction problem should be tackled simultaneously with that of establishing peace. Indeed the former is visualized usually as a long-term problem for which appropriate machinery must be kept in being over a term of years rather than weeks. The fact that PEP has thought it worth while to issue a broadsheet upon these problems indicates that they are already receiving serious, if unofficial, attention. It is at least encouraging that so many new minds are being brought to bear upon them and so many new ideas are being sifted and taking shape. The scientific and constructive approach outlined by Political and Economic Planning claims the closest attention by scientific workers, and may well help them to see in what direction their own contribution can most effectively be made.

Association of Scientific Workers

THE annual council meeting of the Association of Scientific Workers was held in London on November 25. In the report submitted by the Executive Committee, the activities of the Association during the past year were reviewed. These included general activities before the War, such as the Legal Committee and the Scientific Films Committee, and special activities since war broke out, which included the collection of information on the effect of the War on science and scientific workers. The Executive Committee had drawn up a tentative scheme for the setting up of a State Department for the Co-ordination of Science and had submitted this scheme to a number of scientific bodies for their comment; these

bodies had in general replied that they could not work in this way to improve the status of science. A net increase in membership of 25 per cent during the last year was also reported. The president of the Association, Prof. F. G. Donnan, in his address to the meeting, stressed the necessity of building up activities that would have an economic appeal to potential members of the Association, and suggested the possibility of establishing an unemployment benefit fund. The Association, in trying to represent men of science of all subjects in one body, has a great task before it, and in view of the existence of many sectional organizations for men of science, it must offer strong inducements to gain members.

THE general feeling of the membership that the Association should do a great deal more in the day-to-day economic interests of the scientific workers, particularly those in industry, was expressed in the unanimous adoption of a resolution: "That steps be taken to ensure that the primary purpose of the Association is to effect the organisation of scientists, since any satisfactory co-ordination of science depends upon an adequate organisation of scientists". The deep concern felt by members of the Association at the rapidly increasing disorganization in scientific work throughout Great Britain was expressed in the discussion of two further resolutions, and while it was carried by a majority vote that the Association should not press for a Ministry of Science in the present circumstances, the Executive Committee was instructed to press for the establishment of a national council consisting of representative scientific and technical personnel, which would have the object of achieving adequate organization and full use of the scientific resources of the country. The following officers were elected for the year 1939-40: *President*, Prof. F. G. Donnan; *New Vice-Presidents*, Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, Prof. D. Keilin; *Hon. General Secretary*, Dr. W. A. Wooster; *Hon. Treasurer*, Dr. L. Klatzow.

New International Hormone Standards

IT was stated in NATURE of May 13, 1939, that the Third International Conference on the Standardisation of Hormones, held at Geneva in 1939, had decided that international standards should be established for certain hormones of the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland and analogous substances found in urine and serum, and that international units should be defined in terms of a weight of each such standard. It was further decided that the final preparation of these standards, their dispensing in a form suitable for the use of the laboratory worker, their storage, preservation and subsequent distribution should be undertaken by the National Institute for Medical Research, Hampstead, London. The first of these new standards, as announced earlier in the year, namely, that for the gonadotrophic substance of human urine of pregnancy—chorionic gonadotrophin—was established in May of this year. The preparation of two additional international standards has been completed, namely, for the