

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