

NEWS AND VIEWS

Unity and Resolution

THESE were the keynotes of the address broadcast by the King on September 23. The nation is now united as never before, united in both work and suffering: "we are a nation on guard and in the line. Each task, each bit of duty done, however simple and domestic it may be, is part of our war work." The British peoples entered the War a little more than a year ago, with the knowledge that they were opposing a formidable foe, but confident in the justice of their cause. Since then, "Great nations have fallen. The battle, which was at that time so far away that we could only just hear its distant rumblings, is now at our very doors. The armies of invasion are massed across the Channel, only twenty miles from our shores. The air fleets of the enemy launch their attacks, day and night, against our cities. We stand in the front line, to champion those liberties and traditions that are our heritage."

In the great struggle now going on, we are supported by the efforts of the numerous contingents of our Allies, by the good will of all who love freedom, which, as in the United States, has shown itself in many ways, and particularly by the British Commonwealth of Nations itself, from every part of which men and material are flowing in, eager to share in the sacrifices needed for victory. "As in London, so throughout Great Britain, buildings rich in beauty and historic interest may be wantonly attacked, humbler houses, no less dear and familiar, may be destroyed. But 'there'll always be an England' to stand before the world as the symbol and citadel of freedom. . . . We live in grim times, and it may be that the future will be grimmer yet. Winter lies before us, cold and dark. But let us be of good cheer. After winter comes spring, and after our present trials will assuredly come victory and a release from these evil things."

The George Cross and Medal

IN the course of his broadcast address, the King announced the institution of two new honours, the George Cross and the George Medal, to reward the performance of deeds of valour by civilians, men and women, in all walks of life. Although it is intended that awards shall be made for gallantry arising out of enemy action, it will also be given for other brave deeds. The George Cross will rank with and immediately after the Victoria Cross, and will take the place of the medal of the Order of the British Empire for Gallantry; a small military Division will permit of its award to members of the Fighting Services who have performed acts coming within the terms of the warrant. The George Medal will be given more freely, but the standard will be high.

The Future of Polish Science

SINCE the restoration of Poland after the War of 1914-18 concentrated efforts have been made to develop and co-ordinate the scientific work of the country.

During a difficult period of reconstruction, great progress was achieved and, in addition to the six universities, a number of other centres were available for learning and research. Before the outbreak of the present War, there were approximately 850 professors, 520 assistant professors and 1,600 research assistants and readers; the number of students being about 48,000. With the overrunning of Poland by Germany and the U.S.S.R., systematic and thorough methods have been employed to destroy its scientific life. This is being achieved in German-occupied Poland by the imprisonment of university staffs and scholars, the commandeering of specimens and equipment for use in the German Reich, the destruction of publications and libraries, and the closing of all centres of learning and higher education. Similar conditions exist in Soviet occupied territory. Professors and research students have no means of continuing their work and the future of Polish science has been further jeopardized by the closing of secondary schools, thus destroying the source of future students. Fortunately, however, some forty-six Polish scientific workers have been able to reach England. They comprise among their subjects, anatomy, zoology, bacteriology, chemistry, physics and branches of engineering and mechanics; the majority can speak at least three languages. It is the Polish Government's earnest endeavour to conserve, through these men, the future of science in Poland. A few will be able to obtain British Council scholarships and will be placed by the Council in British research institutions. The remainder will be given partial assistance from the very modest funds possessed for this purpose by the Polish Government.

The difficulties confronting the research workers who have no personal contacts in Great Britain are very great, not least among them the understandable antipathy and mistrust of foreigners which now exists in the country. The importance of securing the future of science and learning in Poland, however, will be fully realized, and by assisting to bring about the admission of Polish workers to research institutions in the British Commonwealth of Nations, British men of science can thus help to ensure a nucleus of Polish intellectuals. Also it must not be forgotten that Poland is an ally of Great Britain, who has at no time and in no way failed her, and that a common bond of hardship has drawn the two countries together in friendship.

Sir Frank Stockdale, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

THE appointment is announced of Sir Frank Stockdale, who has been agricultural adviser to the Colonial Secretary since 1930, to be Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies. Sir Frank's departure from the Colonial Office will be felt by the many officers in the agricultural services of the Empire with whom he was on terms of personal intimacy and by all who had learnt to value his wide knowledge of the science and practice of tropical