

knowing that the end for which he has striven so worthily has been achieved; it is the task of his successors in office to see that the full weight of scientific knowledge is brought to bear on all the manifold problems, both in peace and war, with which the rulers of Great Britain are confronted.

### The Universities' Debt to Greece

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge presided at a public meeting held in the Regent House on November 23 to support the cause of Greece in the War. He was accompanied by the Greek Minister, the Provost of King's College (Mr. J. T. Sheppard), Sir Frederick Maurice (principal of Queen Mary College, London), the regius professor of Greek (Prof. D. S. Robertson), the Lord Lieutenant (Mr. C. R. W. Adeane) and the Mayor of Cambridge (Mr. E. O. Brown). The Vice-Chancellor (Mr. E. A. Benians, master of St. John's College) spoke of the sympathy and regard with which Greece is regarded in Great Britain, and particularly in the ancient universities of the country. "Wherever universities exist," he said, "they live and work in a light first kindled on the soil of Greece. To that source they trace the freedom of mind and spirit, without which they cannot fulfil their true functions."

H E. the Greek Minister also addressed the meeting, which passed a resolution, put by Mr. Sheppard, in the following terms: "We, Cambridge residents meeting under the chairmanship of our Vice-Chancellor, being conscious of the inestimable debt which every civilized nation owes to Greece, salute in her the source and pattern of our own free institutions, teacher of wisdom from of old, and faithful mother still of arts and sciences. Mindful also of the special ties which bind the University of Byron to the living memory of Greek heroes, we desire to place on record our profound and grateful admiration for the magnificent loyalty and courage with which the Greeks, who have so often withstood alien invaders, have dared again to take up the challenge in order to preserve for the Greek nation its own hard-won independence and to secure for the future of mankind that spiritual freedom which the world first learnt from Greece." The resolution concluded by asking the Greek Minister "to convey to friends in Greece, particularly to the members of the University of Athens, this token of our loyal friendship, of our faith in final victory and of our pride that the British Commonwealth of Nations strives and will strive with Greece for the same cause."

### *La France Libre*

IN France, in common with the other German-occupied countries, there is no longer any freedom of expression, which is the essential fundamental of true art, literature and science, and all that contributed to the high place which that country held in the world of learning is now suppressed. A few of the French intellectuals have escaped and on them will depend the carrying on of the torch of French culture and learning. In order to do this a monthly journal has been founded entitled *La France Libre* in which the

records of work and expression of free thought of these exiles from France will be conserved. By this means free French learning and free French thought will be co-ordinated and kept in being until that time when France is restored to her former freedom and prestige; and indeed it can only be through efforts such as this, and of other intellectual exiles from the oppressed countries, that the individual science and culture of the nations of Europe will survive.

The journal has the support of leading British men of science and of letters, headed by Sir William Bragg, past-president of the Royal Society, and expressions of sympathy have been received from members of universities and learned institutions all over the British Isles, Canada and the United States. The first number, which was published on November 15, contains an article on "La Communauté universelle de la Science" by Sir Richard Gregory and twelve others covering a wide sphere of interest. The journal is addressed to all Frenchmen and all those who love France, and is deserving of every support. It is not to contain propaganda. The price is 2s. a number or one guinea a year; all particulars may be obtained from *La France Libre*, 15 Queensberry Place, London, S.W.7.

### Social Progress

IN a paper "What is Social Progress?" contributed to a symposium on social progress in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* (73, 457-472; 1940) Prof. L. J. Henderson points out that terms like justice and social progress are useless for clear thinking because they have no accepted fairly clear meaning and can only be given an arbitrary definition at the cost of strong persistent emotional opposition. Social change, however, is a fact, but there is no logical or scientific test of the desirability of social changes except in relation to an end or purpose for which the test is utility. Prof. Henderson suggests that, in a given place, at a given time, for a given end, there may be an optimum rate of change of a given thing and some day this will be a subject ripe for careful study. The conditioned reflexes of men, as they are at any given time and in any given place, will be seldom negligible. More often than not, when the end is survival they will be again, as they have so often been, in the forms we name loyalty, the bonds of family, the sense of kinship, love of country and religious devotion, powerful social forces, and dangerously lacking when in default. Prof. Henderson suggests that among the innumerable effects of science on society, some must be harmful, according to any definition, now or hereafter, to many individuals and to some societies. Moreover, the effects of science upon society may well be only implicit functions of the state of science, but explicit functions of the rate of scientific development. The same scientific development proceeding rapidly may have one effect, proceeding slowly another quite different effect.

A second paper in the symposium, by Crane Brinton, points out that not only the word 'progress' but also almost every important word we try to use in per-