

heartening words with which Mr. Roosevelt has encouraged the defenders of liberty and to the material aid which he has given, and in ever-increasing measure is giving, to secure the defeat of lawlessness and aggression among nations, and to the stand he is making for liberty, humanity and law. Mr. Roosevelt's message mentioned the historic precedent of this special Convocation, expressing his pleasure that it "does so in the great cause of preserving the free learning and civil liberties which have grown stone upon stone in our lands". He concluded with the epigrammatic words: "We and all others who believe as we do would rather die on our feet than live on our knees."

A Dynamic Civilization

In his presidential address "Industrial Progress, Whither and Why", before the Birmingham Metallurgical Society on March 8, Mr. C. H. H. Franklin pointed out that we are living in an epoch of dynamic change, and that whether we evolve into the finest civilization humanity has known or relapse into barbarism comparable with the Dark Ages of Europe after the fall of Roman civilization, is the principal issue. He urged that the future of industry, as of nations and of men, is being decided on the fundamental issues of free mutual co-operation, versus exploitation and compulsion. The organization of an animal or human structure provides valuable clues to the organization of our communal life, and he stressed the necessity of developing a team spirit in our industries and the concept of service of human and social needs if we are to extirpate the cancerous growth at present spreading in Europe and Asia and threatening all humanity. We need also to develop the technique of generating appropriate financial currents for human utility and service instead of its enslavement.

Mr. Franklin referred to the necessity of clarifying our concepts of the laws of growth, of change and of evolution, and of obtaining correct and not superficial answers to the questions of what we are making things for or why we are doing them in our present way. An individual or organization which reaches a stage where its sole concern is continuing its own existence is ripe for decay and dissolution. A great industrial city should display relics of its own industrial growth and models which show what has been and can be done. The deficiencies of past utensils have stimulated the desire and attempt to develop new materials which avoid these drawbacks. Referring to the new materials placed at our disposal by metallurgical progress, Mr. Franklin emphasized the importance of cooking utensils, and suggested that the most appropriate materials for such vessels are metals which, if attacked, only yield salts naturally present in the human body, or metals quite immune from attack. He also referred to the way in which care of cleansing should govern the choice of forms, and to the possible future of magnesium alloys in household tools. He looked forward to a world in which good things are efficiently prepared and craftsmen take a worthy place, the right properties being selected

for a given purpose, and incorporated in worthy design, in which human personality or individuality is not cramped or repressed. By utilizing in this way for all our purposes the new resources at our disposal and working in this spirit of evolution, we can build up the harmony of life which our civilization is missing.

The Position of the Jews

In his pamphlet "The Jewish Question" (Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs, No. 45. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 3d. net) Mr. J. Parkes points out that the Jewish problem arises from two sources: the Jewish tradition, which has inculcated in Jews the need to keep themselves separate if they would survive as Jews, and Jewish experience at the hands of the peoples among whom they have lived. Mr. Parkes shows how Jewry has been unfairly identified with all the malpractices of modern commerce and industry and the way in which prejudice, by embittering Jewish experience, has accentuated the minority problem which Jewry might normally present. Modern anti-Semitism has made the problem acute through two main factors: the persecutions in Tsarist Russia at the end of the nineteenth century, which led to the flooding of Western Europe and America with several million Jewish refugees from a totally different level of culture; and the fever of nationalism which spread over the world after the War of 1914-18 and made life difficult for all minorities.

Mr. Parkes considers that the accurate and scientific studies of the question we possess, and our knowledge of the effects of past experience, warrant the view that with planning and co-operation there is nothing in the Jewish problem which need cause pessimism or despair. He suggests that in the light of experience of the last twenty years, a minority is entitled to a communal organization, recognized as a public body, and with control over primary education and teachers' colleges, charitable foundations, and cultural activities, as well as to religious freedom and authority in religious matters where the minority is also a religious minority. On each point the majority has certain rights, for example, in regard to language. Among the Jews themselves, assimilation with their countries of adoption, or the foundation of a Jewish national home have been the main programmes proposed and followed. The basic problem confronting Jews lies in the view which they take of their status: whether they wish to be considered merely a religious minority or a separate national minority. The ultimate problem of Jewry is the rediscovery and reassertion of the fundamental spiritual and social realities of Judaism, to which both assimilation and Zionism are capable of offering soils already prepared.

Bread Flour

PROF. J. REILLY, professor of chemistry in the National University of Ireland (University College, Cork), has produced a booklet entitled "Our Daily Bread" which is particularly interesting at the present