

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Declaration of Scientific Principles

MR. H. STRAUSS, M.P., has written stating that the wording of Clause 4 of the Declaration of Scientific Principles presented at the British Association meeting on September 28 (see NATURE, Oct. 4, p. 393) is capable of misinterpretation. The British Association, through Prof. Allan Ferguson and Dr. O. J. R. Howarth, has acknowledged that it does not wish to prescribe any documentary statement as final, and that it is fully prepared to alter the wording of the Declaration in the light of friendly and constructive criticism, while leaving the spirit of the pronouncement unchanged. So far as science is concerned, the formulation of basic laws is undoubtedly profoundly influenced by the structure and state of the civilization in which the laws are formulated, but the shorthand statement, the so-called *law*, possesses neither sanctity nor finality. It is a policy rather than a creed. It is accordingly proposed to amend the wording of Clause 4 to read: "That the service of science requires independence combined with co-operation and its structure is influenced by the progressive needs of humanity."

International Youth Rally

AN impressive and stimulating International Youth Rally for Victory was held in London on September 11. A message from H.M. the King emphasized how clearly the young men and women of to-day appreciate the true meaning of the present struggle and the gravity of the task which the years of reconstruction will lay upon their shoulders. As Mr. Bevin, the Minister of Labour, pointed out, the Allied Governments are fortified in their present tremendous tasks by the support of the masses of the people, and are reinforced by the vision, enthusiasm and energy of the youth who are engaged on the battlefield, in the air, on the seas, in civil defence, in transport, in the workshop, and in the fields; to this might well be added the laboratory. "It will be yours to rebuild and shape the new world" said Mr. Bevin, so it is to be hoped that youth of the present and future will be given every opportunity to do so when that time comes.

That more than twenty nations took part is of more than casual significance. Youth are awake to their responsibilities, and are clearly anxious to give their all in the present struggle; they must be encouraged to give of their best in the long period of reconstruction which will follow the victory towards which they are now contributing the majority of practical effort. The very fact that such a rally was held was indicative of the desire of youth for new sources of inspiration and for genuine bases for co-operation between the youth of all nationalities in order to prepare them for their future responsibilities. The movement is deserving of every encouragement. Youth must be given greater chances,

they must be given more sympathetic hearing, they must be represented to greater degree on all national and international councils (including science) than they have in the past. Youth have often felt and sometimes expressed a feeling of frustration, a feeling of being overlooked or even overruled merely because of their youth. Such feelings must not be manifest in the youth of the future, if they are to play their just part in the world of to-morrow.

The Faraday Society and the U.S.S.R.

AT the annual meeting of the Faraday Society held on September 26, the following letter, signed by Prof. E. K. Rideal (president) and Mr. G. S. W. Marlow (secretary), to the Physical and Chemical Society of the U.S.S.R. was read and heartily approved by the members for dispatch: "At their first meeting after the invasion of Russia, the Council of the Faraday Society desires us on their behalf and on that of the Society to send greetings to our colleagues in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Our two countries proudly stand allied as guardians of the freedom of the World against wanton aggression. By restoring such freedom to the temporarily enslaved peoples of Europe and Asia we shall enable the work of our men of science to bless mankind. The work of Russian men of science has assuredly shewn to all the world what splendid results can be achieved. Russia's heroic resistance against the ruthless aggressor is a source of immense pride to her ally and will ever be remembered in history. We look forward with confidence to the day when the aggressor will be conquered and in the blessings of peace and freedom the members of our two Societies can meet in fraternal comradeship as allies in the peaceful quest of the laws of nature, just as now we are allies in the war on barbarian man."

Legislation on Town and Country Planning

IN the House of Lords on October 7, replying to a question from Viscount Samuel as to when the proposed legislation on town and country planning would be presented to Parliament, Lord Reith repudiated the suggestion that no progress has been made and that departmentalism is still obstructive. Lord Reith stated that the Council of Ministers has already produced a Bill which is in an advanced stage and excellent reports have already come from the interdepartmental committee associated with him on reconstruction problems. His statement, however, that as a result the Ministry of Health has appointed regional planning officers for all the regions to deal with problems that might arise and that the Minister of Works and Buildings is himself about to appoint regional authorities for propaganda purposes and to encourage local authorities to establish joint committees where they do not already