

NEWS AND VIEWS

American Mathematicians and the U.S.S.R.

THE Soviet Embassy in Washington has recently received for transmission to Soviet mathematicians a statement of solidarity signed by a number of their most distinguished American colleagues. The document carries signatures of ninety-three mathematicians of forty-seven American universities and colleges. Prof. Marston Morse, president of the American Mathematical Society, is a signatory, as also are eight past presidents of the Society. Fourteen are members of the National Academy of Sciences. Among the signatories are several well-known German mathematicians who now reside in the United States and who know from personal experience the destruction Hitler has wrought in German culture. These include Profs. E. Artin, R. Courant, W. Mayer, H. A. Rademacher and O. Szasz.

The statement reads as follows: "We . . . send our greetings and express our heartfelt sympathy to our colleagues of the Soviet Union in their struggle against Hitler fascism. What the future of mathematics would be in a Hitler-dominated world we know from the unprecedented destruction of mathematics in Germany after the advent of Hitler. We are deeply impressed by the heroic stand of the Soviet peoples and know that the mathematicians of the Soviet Union are doing their part in this supreme effort. The bonds between mathematicians in the United States and the Soviet Union are particularly strong since during the past two decades the center of world mathematics has steadily shifted to these two countries. We know many of you personally and more of you through your scientific writings. We know that you are fighting alongside your fellow-countrymen in their brave struggle against the invading tyrant and we assure you that we here are doing everything in our power to aid all peoples struggling against fascism. With best wishes for a successful fight against the evil forces of fascism, we remain, fraternally, your colleagues in the United States."

Commonwealth Grant to Australian Universities

UNDER the Australian federal system, public education is a function of the State Governments, and the six universities look to these bodies for financial support. Five years ago, however, the Commonwealth Government undertook a share of this responsibility by providing £30,000 a year to meet costs of research in the natural sciences and in economics, and of training young graduates in research technique. The funds are administered by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in consultation with the Vice-Chancellors' Conference. The Commonwealth has now announced its intention to raise its contribution to £40,000 a year, commencing in 1942, on condition that at least £9,000 a year be devoted to social science studies bearing on problems of post-war reconstruction.

American Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGICAL Papers, Numbers 13-18, have been recently published by the Smithsonian Institution (Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 128). These include "The Mining of Gems and Ornamental Stones by American Indians", "Iroquois Suicide", "Tonawanda Longhouse Ceremonies", "The Quichua-speaking Indians of the Province of Imbabura", "Art Processes in Birchbark of the River Desert Algonquin" and "Archæological Reconnaissance of Southern Utah". The last of these, by J. H. Steward, will appeal especially to archaeologists interested in the ancient history of the New World. The article is based on the surveys of Judd (1926) and Steward (1933 and 1936), and deals with a culture apparently based on that of the Basket-maker Pueblo peoples of the San Juan River basin. A large number of sites were visited and are described, and the material culture found in them is catalogued and illustrated. Painted pottery, naturally, occurred as well as flint implements. It is a pity, however, that these latter are so inadequately figured—mere outlines of the tools being all that is given. An interesting series of rock-drawings was also discovered, showing conventionalized figures of animals and human beings, as well as signs of various kinds, including the spiral.

Indian Jute Production

A BROCHURE containing much valuable statistical material on the jute trade and industry, including estimates which are not available elsewhere, has been issued by the Indian Central Jute Committee, Calcutta, under the title "World Consumption of Jute" 1938-39 and 1939-40 (Economic Research Bulletin No. 1, R.1, 1s. 6d.). The estimates of the total consumption of jute in the world given in this bulletin for the period 1933-34 to 1939-40 indicate that consumption reached its peak in 1936-37 with an aggregate consumption of about 123 lakhs of bales, but world consumption in 1938-39 fell to 107 lakhs of bales, and only rose again to 109 lakhs of bales in 1939-40, in spite of the hectic buying at the beginning of the War. Independent estimates of the yield of the jute crop are also included for the 1938-39 and 1939-40 seasons.

The War has seriously affected the export of raw jute, but this was more than compensated by the rise in the export of jute manufactures, the countries within the British Empire considerably increasing their consumption of Indian jute manufactures, although there was a substantial reduction in the normal commercial demand for jute goods. The consumption of raw jute by the Indian mills fell in 1938-39 but increased considerably in 1939-40, and the total stock of raw jute for the Indian mills was 20 lakhs of bales at the end of 1939-40, or about 9 lakhs of bales less than the stock at the end of 1937-38. The total yield of the jute crop in the 1938-39 season was a little more than 80 lakhs of bales, which was less than the world total demand