

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Meteorological Society : New President

THE election of Prof. D. Brunt as president of the Royal Meteorological Society will be welcomed by all meteorologists. Prof Brunt received a mathematical training at Cambridge and lectured on mathematics before joining the Meteorological Section of the Royal Engineers in 1916. During the War of 1914-18 his first book appeared, on "The Combination of Observations", which gave a systematic account of the application of mathematics to observational data, especially in meteorology; it reached a second edition in 1931. After the war ended, he joined the staff of the Meteorological Office as superintendent of Army Meteorological Services, where he remained until 1934. During this period he carried out a great deal of research into periodicity in meteorological phenomena, bringing to the subject rigid mathematical criteria of reality which did a great deal to correct the rather credulous attitude of earlier workers, and disposed of the belief in dominant 'weather cycles'. He then turned his attention to dynamical meteorology and to the fundamental physical properties of the atmosphere, especially in connexion with radiation. In 1934 he was appointed to the chair of meteorology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, succeeding Sir Gilbert Walker. In the same year he published his well-known text-book on "Physical and Dynamical Meteorology", from which most of the younger generation of meteorologists have received a thorough grounding. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1939. Prof. Brunt has been associated with the Royal Meteorological Society for many years, as councillor, vice-president, editor and as the author of numerous stimulating papers in the Society's *Quarterly Journal*.

Conference on European Agriculture

THE British Association announces a conference on "European Agriculture: Scientific Problems in Post-War Reconstruction", arranged under the auspices of the Division for the Social and International Relations of Science as a matter arising out of the recent conference on Science and World Order. This agricultural conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1. There will be morning and afternoon sessions on each day, and British and foreign experts will deal with such subjects as the immediate technical steps necessary for reconstruction, settlement, marketing and prices, farm and factory, nutrition, the co-operative system, land reforms, peasant prosperity, excess population, peasant education, the improvement of peasant farming, livestock problems, artificial insemination, milk production, market gardening, and the relations of European agriculture to world conditions. A regional survey of European agriculture is contemplated, inasmuch as it is felt that many of the problems of reconstruction may be better viewed regionally than within the limits of political divisions. The chair of the opening and closing sessions will be taken by Sir John Russell; the names of other chairmen and of speakers will be announced when the programme is complete. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, British Association, Burlington House, London, W.1.

Science and World Order

A BULLETIN has been issued by the British Association summarizing action taken and inquiries made by the officers and council of the Association and the executive of the Division for the Social and International Relations of Science, down to the end of January, on matters arising out of the Conference on Science and World Order. *The Advancement of Science*, No. 5 (Pp. 120, 5s.), contains a full report of the transactions of the Conference, together with certain related communications received later. A Penguin volume on "Science and World Order", based on the proceedings of the Conference and compiled by J. G. Crowther, D. P. Riley, and Dr. O. J. R. Howarth, is in preparation. On the direction of the Council of the Association, the executive subcommittee of the Division convened a meeting, which included representatives of Government and other bodies interested in building and territorial planning to consider what action, if any, might be desirable on the part of the Association in connexion with this matter. It was decided to form a representative committee, in accordance with a regular practice of the Association, to inquire into and report upon the state of science in relation to building and territorial planning, with the view of summarizing the present position of researches in these connexions and indicating their services.

The executive subcommittee of the Division, on the instruction of the Council, held a meeting, with assessors, to consider what action, if any, should be taken by the Association in relation to post-war university education. It was decided that a committee be appointed with wide terms of reference, as follows: (a) To consider the general policy and methods of university education with a view to promoting international collaboration and the free interchange of ideas, and relating university education to the needs and service of the community; (b) to consider the replanning of teaching departments and curricula in accordance with modern conceptions of the interrelations of different branches of knowledge, particularly those of science and the humanities; (c) to survey the position regarding teaching material, apparatus, books and staff in universities which have been damaged, destroyed, disorganized, or closed as a result of the War, and to make recommendations for their rehabilitation. This committee is in progress of formation; its joint secretaries are Prof. F. E. Weiss and Mr. A. Gray Jones.

Certain further matters have appeared, after inquiry, not to call for action, or at any rate immediate action, on the part of the Association. Thus, the Council has taken no immediate action upon various suggestions, made during and after the Conference, concerning the establishment of an international league of science, and a standing consultative committee representative of British and foreign science in Great Britain. The Council endorsed the view of the executive subcommittee of the Division that the International Council of Scientific Unions and the Unions themselves, if effectively reconstituted after the War, should provide adequate opportunities for international co-operation in science; and it is understood that discussions to this end are in progress. The Association received a report arising out of proposals for a register of, and meeting-place for, foreign men of science now in Great Britain. It is understood that material exists for a register in the records of the International Labour Department of