

1919 until 1926 was chairman of the War Pensions Hospital Committee.

Archæology, too, benefited by his generosity, for he financed the excavations at Viroconium, near Wroxeter, of which the results have lately been published. Farther afield his help enabled the University of Belgrade to resume excavations on the prehistoric site of Vincha. He also bore the cost of British Museum excavations at Nineveh and assisted an expedition working on the Necropolis at Vounous Bellapais in Cyprus. His name will long be remembered with gratitude.

G. A. SHAKESPEAR.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. E. J. Allen, C.B.E., F.R.S., secretary to the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom and director of the Plymouth Laboratory from 1895 until 1936, on December 7, aged seventy-six.

Prof. R. A. Gortner, professor of biochemistry in the University of Minnesota, on September 30, aged fifty-seven.

Prof. T. M. Putnam, professor of mathematics in the University of California, on September 22, aged sixty-seven.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Reconstruction in Great Britain : The People

THE widespread interest in the problems of post-war reconstruction and planning was reflected in the House of Commons debate on December 1 and 2 on an amendment to the Address. The debate was characterized by notable speeches from Mr. Greenwood, Sir William Jowitt and Mr. Anthony Eden. Sir William Jowitt gave a comprehensive but general account of the Government's policy. Sketching the post-war position and stressing the importance of international co-operation in a deliberate effort to improve the standard of living throughout the world in order that consumers abroad may be able to buy that which we produce, he said that he believes we must become as a nation more scientifically minded, prepared, whatever industrial system we adopt, to use scientific methods and to aim at the greatest efficiency in those methods. The Ministerial Committee over which he presides is, he said, trying to work out practical schemes of reconstruction to which effect could be given in the first few years after the War, and presupposing in its plans a social and economic structure designed to secure equality of opportunity and service among all classes of the community. The Ministerial Committee is assisted by an external and an internal committee of highly placed and experienced Civil Servants. Demobilization plans are being prepared; these include the question of education and training for those whose educational careers have been interrupted by the War. With regard to getting the workers back into industry, the Government considers that each industry should be surveyed separately, because the structure of industry will not fit into a common mould. The points of contact between Government and industry require strengthening, and Sir William said that capital must be ready to seek new opportunities and labour must be prepared to be more fluid.

### The Land

Fully accepting the views of the Scott and the Uthwatt Committees as to the need for correlating policy, the Government has decided, Sir William said, in view of the importance of maintaining Parliamentary responsibility, to ask Parliament to constitute a separate Ministry of Town and Country Planning. This Minister will be a member of the Ministerial Committee already supervising reconstruction policy, and there are also important functions for which a permanent commission, acting under the Minister of Town and Country Planning, will be the most appropriate body. The Government has

reached no decision as to the acquisition by the State of development rights in all undeveloped land or on a levy on increases in annual site values, but it is proposing in forthcoming legislation to confer wide and simple powers on local authorities for the compulsory acquisition of land. In regard to food, Sir William said that the wise developments of the last few years should not be abandoned after the War. Close attention is being given to the formulation of a permanent post-war agricultural policy, on which the Dominions will be consulted. A really vigorous forestry policy will be adopted after the War, for which the Forestry Commission has been instructed to formulate a programme. Sir William also referred to the organization of electricity supply on the most efficient basis, to the close review of water supply, and finally to the place of education in reconstruction.

### International Aspects

Sir William Jowitt's references to the importance of international co-operation and to collaboration with the International Labour Office were amplified in the speech with which Mr. Eden replied to the second day's debate. Reiterating our determination to assist in the immediate relief of post-war Europe, Mr. Eden pointed out that the manner in which, and the extent to which, we succeed or fail in co-operating with our Allies now will largely determine the course of post-war foreign policy. Whether we are able to maintain peace or not afterwards will depend on whether we can carry through the co-operation we have now established with the United States of America, with Soviet Russia and with China. The first need of Europe will be to build up an enduring system of defence against the possibility of renewed German aggression. He hoped that we are prepared to make our contribution to take our part because we understand that peace and security in Europe are part of our own peace and security.

Welcoming a recent speech of Mr. Sumner Welles indicating American readiness to accept world-wide responsibility for maintaining peace, and recognizing the value of the International Labour Organisation as possibly the main instrument for giving effect to Article 5 of the Atlantic Charter, Mr. Eden pointed out that for any international organization to have a chance to achieve its purpose it must be fully representative of the Powers that mean to keep the peace. Second, the Powers themselves must have the unity and the determination to arrive at agreed and positive decisions; and third, they must have the force behind them to give effect to their decisions. Mr. Eden believes that out of this organization of the United