

(3) scientific research and teaching in the interests of trade and industry; (4) social studies; (5) care and comfort of aged persons. The normal scope of the Trust's activities will be Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Attention may, however, be given to projects particularly affecting the British Empire, and in regard to items 1 and 3 the provision of scholarships and other assistance for Empire students is included. Lord Nuffield's trusts which are already in being may benefit from the income of the new Trust.

The following have been appointed trustees to manage the new fund thus created: Sir William Goodenough (chairman), who is associated with other Nuffield Trusts; Sir John Stopford (vice-chairman), vice-chancellor and professor of experimental neurology in the University of Manchester; Prof. F. L. Engledow, Drapers' professor of agriculture in the University of Cambridge; the Hon. Geoffrey C. Gibbs; Sir Hector Hetherington, principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Glasgow; Sir Henry Tizard, president of Magdalen College, Oxford, and formerly rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology; and Miss Janet Vaughan, who is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

### Science and Government

THE second annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, held on February 11, was attended by several members of both Houses of Parliament, including three Cabinet ministers, and by representatives of the associated scientific bodies. In an address on the organization of scientific effort in Great Britain, Sir John Anderson, Lord President of the Council, who has now become responsible for the Government's scientific services, recalled that Sir Stafford Cripps had already outlined the existing arrangements for scientific research and development in his address on January 30 before the conference on "Planning of Science: in War and in Peace" (see NATURE, February 6, p. 152). Sir John devoted himself therefore to the general principles which he believes should govern such arrangements. He believes that four main conditions must be satisfied: the organization must be an integral part of the Government machine; it should maintain contact with outside scientific bodies; it must not cut across normal ministerial responsibilities; and it must be linked up with a minister who is in a position to see that extra-departmental considerations are not neglected. The present organization of scientific effort, with the scientific advisers to the Ministry of Supply, the Scientific and Engineering Advisory Committees and so on, is, in Sir John Anderson's opinion, meeting these requirements tolerably well, and will provide a good basis on which to build up the type of organization required for the post-war world. Sir Robert Robinson spoke on the importance of the international control of explosives. As all the explosives in use by armed forces depend on the supply of nitrates, he urged the control of synthetic nitrate and similar plants as a measure for ensuring that aggressor nations shall not resort to war.

### Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

ACCORDING to the annual report for 1942 of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, the membership now includes thirty-three organizations associated with scientific work and seventy-four members of the Houses of Parliament. During the past year, the main work of the Committee has been connected

with the better utilization of scientific men in the war effort. A memorandum on the subject was prepared and a strong deputation saw Mr. R. A. Butler, then chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee. Later, a motion urging the establishment of a Central Scientific and Technical Board was tabled in the House of Commons. This motion was allowed to lapse, after several questions designed to elucidate the position had been asked in the House, on the understanding that the functions of the scientific advisers to the Ministry of Supply would be widened as they became established. The Committee is watching the position. Discussions arranged during the year dealt with the dissemination of scientific knowledge among farmers (see NATURE, June 27, p. 722), the Industrial Health Research Board, the use of geology in war-time, pasteurization of milk and visual efficiency in factories. The secretaries of the Committee have continued to issue *Science in Parliament*, which summarizes important Parliamentary proceedings relating to science and technology. The following officers have been appointed for 1943: *President*: Lord Samuel; *New Vice-Presidents*: Captain L. F. Plugge, M.P., Prof. B. W. Holman, Mr. R. B. Pilcher (Institute of Chemistry); *Chairman*: Mr. E. W. Salt, M.P.; *Vice-Chairman*: Prof. J. A. Crowther (Institute of Physics); *Deputy Chairman*: Mr. M. P. Price, M.P.; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. C. S. Garland (Institution of Chemical Engineers); *Hon. Secretary*: Dr. W. R. Wooldridge (National Veterinary Medical Association).

### Colonial Policy

A SOMEWHAT inconclusive debate on Colonial affairs took place in the House of Lords on February 9. The matter was raised by Lord Trenchard, who asked whether the Government could make any statement on methods of staffing and administering the Colonial Empire. Lord Trenchard referred to his previous inquiry on the subject last May, when he brought forward five matters for discussion: recruitment of the Colonial Civil Service, organization of a single interchangeable and independent Service, a Colonial Staff College, creation of a Colonial Advisory Board, and the possibility of grouping the Colonies into larger units. In the interval, other debates on the general subject have taken place, and in one of them Lord Listowel remarked that we now have an opportunity for atoning for past neglect of the Colonies. Lord Trenchard emphatically repudiated the suggestion that there has been neglect, showing that the British Colonial administration has brought peace and prosperity in its train; and he denied the suggestion that Great Britain has enriched herself at the expense of the Colonies. This point, it may be noted, was also made by Mr. R. G. Casey, now Minister of State in the Middle East, and a former member of the Australian Government, in a broadcast address delivered on February 14. Lord Listowel followed Lord Trenchard and discussed particularly the staffing and recruitment of the administrative services. He pointed out that high academic achievement is insufficient, and should be supplemented by special courses taken after having practical experience in the Colonies. Lord Elibank referred particularly to the difficulty of grouping Colonies. The importance of introducing local inhabitants into the administrative system was widely emphasized.

The Duke of Devonshire, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied to the