

quality long-distance telephone communications. Further, their advent makes practical, in many instances, provision for the introduction of television networks on an international scale.

Advances during the first two periods were effected largely with material and apparatus placed in the field, that is, 'outside plant'; those of the third period depended largely on central office equipment. While an important element in progress during the fourth period doubtless must be credited to central office equipment, such as the terminal apparatus for the coaxial and twelve-channel systems, it appears that a new essential factor will be the adaptation of apparatus heretofore regarded as central office equipment to utilization in the field. This new apparatus, as previously indicated, has been embodied in unattended repeater stations.

## ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND LECTURERS OF ALLIED COUNTRIES

### GENERAL MEETING

THE Association of University Professors and Lecturers of Allied Countries in Great Britain marked its third general meeting with a whole-day session on December 16. The Association, which now comprises 230 members, works through twelve sections (see NATURE, December 12, p. 692), most of which had separate meetings, followed by a general meeting of all members. At this general reunion, reports were presented by the chairmen of groups of sections, and general recommendations made. Thus the deliberations of the individual sections were brought together, to present an inter-Allied view on matters in different domains of actual knowledge. Complete liberty of academic thought and spirit, with such freedom of speech as would be impossible in the countries of continental Europe, characterized the proceedings.

The main points of the aims and work accomplished by the groups of sections were as follow:

*Arts*: Law, economics, humanities and history, such as studies of comparative law; the position of economic science in the different countries; establishment of a scientific basis for economic planning; the possibility of reaching an agreement on the question of general history; and considerations relating to an international language.

*Science*: Inter-Allied collaboration for the establishment of an international academy of medicine; the establishment of an international body of information, and the co-ordination of inventions and scientific discoveries in general; an international research centre; collaboration with the Leith-Ross Committee; the establishment of liaisons with British organizations which are studying the planning and reconstruction of Europe; the examination of problems concerning the moral and material sustenance of scientific men in comparison with the manual worker.

*General*: Dealing with general subjects and with questions of general interest for university men; for example, contacts between British and foreign scholars in Great Britain during the War; the promotion of international collaboration after the War; reconstruction and planning of science and learning

in the occupied countries, and the problems of the re-education of youth after the War in Allied and enemy countries.

Prof. R. Douglas Laurie, honorary general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, announced that all members of the Association of University Professors and Lecturers of Allied Countries were invited to become honorary members of the Association of University Teachers. This will lead to closer working and social unity between British and Allied professors and lecturers.

In the course of an address by the president of the Association, Prof. S. Glaser (Poland), the various steps were mentioned which the Association has so far been able to make to promote the necessary collaboration between scientific workers and other scholars of the Allied countries. The reconstruction of moral values as well as the rebuilding of institutions of all categories constitutes, he said, one of the aims towards which the Association is exerting its efforts. This is being carried out, so far as possible, with a profound sense, both spiritual as well as cultural, of the importance of European society as a whole after the War.

It was decided at the general meeting, among other matters, that a conference on a fairly large scale on education should be arranged for the early spring 1943, and a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Sir Alfred Zimmern (Oxford) has been appointed for this purpose.

In NATURE of December 12, a list was given of the general officers and chairmen of sections of the Association. The following can now be added to the list. Section 3: Reconstruction of science and learning in the occupied countries (*Chairman*: Mr. Willard Connely). Section 9: Medicine as distinct from general science (*Chairman*: Dr. Jean-Edouard Bigwood). Section 10: Technical Science and Engineering, has been placed in Section 6 (Science).

Thanks to the efforts of the Association, very useful collaboration between members in the field of learning and scientific research is being established among the various professors and lecturers of the Allied countries. It provides an opportunity of establishing unity in the true sense of the word, namely, with intellectual and moral solidarity; a fact the importance of which will be appreciated by scientific men and other scholars of the Allied countries, wherever their interests in the plans and problems of to-morrow may lie.

## THE WAIRARAPA (NEW ZEALAND) EARTHQUAKE OF JUNE 24, 1942

A PRELIMINARY report on some of the seismological aspects of the Wairarapa earthquake of June 24, 1942, has been issued by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand (*Dominion Observatory Bull.* S-66, Wellington, New Zealand, September, 1942).

Following a rather strong fore-shock at 8.14 p.m. on June 24, the major shock occurred without further warning at 11h. 16.5m. p.m. (New Zealand Daylight Saving Time). Considerable damage to old or poorly constructed buildings occurred at Masterton, where the intensity appeared to be 8+ on the Rossi-Forel scale. There were no fatal casualties, though minor injuries were caused by falling debris. Intensity 8 on the Rossi-Forel scale was attained over a