

NEWS and VIEWS

Scientific Director of the Zoological Society of London: Prof. Edward Hindle, F.R.S.

THE appointment of Prof. Edward Hindle, regius professor of zoology in the University of Glasgow, to the post of scientific director of the Zoological Society of London, is in implementation of the policy, decided on more than a year ago, to replace the paid secretary of the Society by an honorary secretary in accordance with the practice of most learned societies. It was then foreseen that it would also be necessary to have another officer who would carry out much of the work performed by the former paid secretary. Dr. Hindle, as the first occupant of the new post now created, will therefore be mainly concerned in organizing all the more scientific branches of the Society's work, such as the scientific meetings, the publications and the library, as well as the prosectorium; he will also deal with scientific problems concerning the collections of animals at Regent's Park and Whipsnade.

Prof. Hindle, in addition to having a wide knowledge of zoology, has travelled much and has visited most of the Zoological Gardens of the world. Since he went to Glasgow in 1935, he has taken a keen interest in starting a Zoological Park there, and is president of the Zoological Society of Glasgow, in the foundation of which in 1937 he was concerned. He is also on the council of the Zoological Society of Scotland at Edinburgh, a member of the Scottish Nature Reserves Committee, and chairman since 1935 of the executive committee of the Scottish Marine Biological Association. His many other activities include considerable editorial experience, for he is joint editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* and of *Parasitology*, and sectional editor of the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin*. His research interests have been mainly in the field of protozoology, particularly infections transmitted by insects. Since 1936 he has been Lieut.-Colonel in command of the University of Glasgow O.T.C., and since the War has been in charge of the recruitment and training of potential officers in the west of Scotland. It is hoped that Prof. Hindle will be able to take up his duties in January.

Industrialization in China

THE broadsheet "Poverty and Progress in China" recently issued by Political and Economic Planning (P.E.P.) (No. 209) gives a concise but useful account of the social and economic situation in China, war-time changes and achievements and comments on post-war industrialization. About three-quarters of China's population, or 360 million people, draw their living from about 250 million acres, or only 11 per cent of the total area of China. While much of the remainder is definitely unfit for cultivation, some part of it could be used for agricultural purposes if irrigation were provided and scientific methods of farming used. By modern standards, Chinese agriculture is heavily under-capitalized and over-manned, the Chinese farmer grossly under-fed and over-worked. Excessive rents are also a serious matter, but the poverty of communications is one of the greatest causes and consequences of China's material backwardness. Most of the known mineral resources are as yet unexploited, but raw materials required for the consumer goods industries can be supplied at home and some, such as silk, wool, tobacco, leather,

furs and bristles, have long formed staple exports. China became almost self-sufficient in raw cotton by 1929.

With regard to the effects of Japanese occupation, at least five of China's six major industrial regions have fallen under Japanese control, as well as the major ports, much of the road and railway network, important mineral resources and the major cotton- and wool-producing areas. The stout resistance put up in face of the invasion, however, gave the Chinese time to evacuate some of their industrial equipment to the interior, and the Government has directly undertaken industrial projects especially in heavy industry and in electricity. It has also gradually assumed control of the allocation and prices of essential materials and of the distribution of labour, but effective administrative control has been hampered by the shortage of experienced personnel, by the size of the country and the poverty of its communications and by inflation. The Chinese industrial co-operatives have played an important part in absorbing moderately skilled workers and craftsmen whose services could not be speedily utilized by the transferred private or Government industry. In regard to post-war industrialization, the broadsheet considers that industrial co-operation may have a great future in China, but will require greater support in the form of cheap credit. Technical and managerial assistance from abroad as well as machines and equipment will also be essential, but population pressure may remain the crucial problem until adjustment is facilitated by improvements in educational standards and enlightenment about family limitation.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

A SUBSTANTIAL part of Dr. Karl T. Compton's Pilgrim Trust Lecture, "Organization of American Scientists for the War", appeared in NATURE of May 29, p. 601. The Information Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has pointed out that some of Dr. Compton's remarks about that Department require modification. The Department's initial work was in the field of scientific research, the introduction of valuable plant species, entomology, botany, chemistry, meteorology, and so on. Its first bureau, the Bureau of Animal Industry, was created by an Act of Congress of May 29, 1884, and still carries out research in animal diseases, breeding, feeding, and management of domestic animals, and related subjects. On March 2, 1887, an Act was passed which authorized the establishment, under the direction of the land-grant colleges, of stations in each State to conduct agricultural experimentation. The Office of Experiment Stations was established in the Department of Agriculture, in 1888, to act as a staff agency to administer Federal grants involved in this and subsequent supplementary legislation, and to coordinate researches.

On December 13, 1941, a major re-organization of the Department of Agriculture was announced in connexion with the war effort; this was validated on February 23, 1943. Seven of the old scientific bureaux and agencies, concerned largely with research work, were combined to form the Agricultural Research Administration. Included also were the four large Regional Research Laboratories, authorized in 1938, and established at Peoria, Ill., Albany, Calif., Philadelphia, Pa., and New Orleans, La.; the nine Bankhead-Jones Laboratories for research on special agri-