

NEWS and VIEWS

Foundation for Educational Research

THE Foundation for Educational Research, recently set up in association with the University of London Institute of Education, owes its origin to an offer of 10,000 dollars from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This was made to encourage a 'carry-over' of interest in research from the work done under the directorship of Sir Philip Hartog by the English Committee of the Carnegie International Examinations Enquiry. The conditions attached to the offer were that the money would be paid over as equal amounts were subscribed in England, and that the fund should be administered by the Institute of Education. A generous grant of £1,000 from the Leverhulme Trustees thus made the sum of £2,000 available. As soon as conditions permitted, the Institute constituted an advisory council, and this body urged a considerable expansion of the original scheme so as to provide for a period of at least five years of systematic work. This expansion is now being put into effect with good hopes of wide support. The intention is that the present organization shall merge itself into a permanent national organization as soon as that stage can be reached. The first piece of work to be undertaken is a programme of researches designed to arrive at trustworthy diagnostic techniques for the 'sorting' of the young adolescent population which will be necessary in carrying into effect the White Paper proposals for post-primary education in Great Britain.

University Grants Committee

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that the membership of the University Grants Committee has been increased from ten to fifteen. It is constituted as follows: Sir Walter Moberley (chairman), formerly vice-chancellor of the University of Manchester; Dr. E. A. Benians, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge; Prof. W. E. Collinson, professor of German in the University of Liverpool; Sir Charles Darwin, director of the National Physical Laboratory; Miss Margery Fry, formerly principal of Somerville College, Oxford; Sir Robert Greig, director of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, member of the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland and of the Agricultural Research Council; Prof. A. V. Hill, Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society; Dr. P. D. Innes, chief education officer, Birmingham; Sir Frederic Kenyon, formerly director and principal librarian of the British Museum; Prof. P. S. Noble, regius professor of humanity, University of Aberdeen; Principal Andrew Robertson, recently professor of mechanical engineering, University of Bristol; Prof. E. J. Salisbury, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Dr. J. C. Spence, lecturer on diseases of children, University of Durham; Prof. R. H. Tawney, professor of economic history, University of London; Sir Henry Tizard, president of Magdalen College, Oxford.

University of Oslo

At the seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the Allied Governments, held in London at the offices of the Board of Education on December 7, with Mr. R. A. Butler, M.P., in the chair, the following message of sym-

pathy and encouragement, with which the Conference associated itself, was handed to the Norwegian Minister of Education:

"We in Great Britain have been deeply shocked to hear of the brutal action by the German Occupying Power in Norway against the students and teaching staff of Oslo University. We are well aware that the arrest and threatened deportation of the flower of Norway's youth are designed to crush Norwegian intellectual resistance and to strike at those reserves of trained minds, which will be so badly needed during the post-war reconstruction period. We have watched with pride and admiration the unarmed struggle of your Nation. We have seen how your people have used the rich resources of their cultural and educational tradition, which we so greatly respect, to resist every attack by their oppressors. Norway's intellectuals have stood firm against trickery and enticement, against brutality and reprisals. All those concerned with education in Britain will join in sending our sympathy to our colleagues in Norway and particularly to Norwegian students and teachers. We know that this latest attack will be as fruitless as any other of the Nazis' efforts to subjugate the Norwegian people. We are confident that it will recoil inexorably on the heads of its instigators. Once more the Nazis have shown their determination to suppress every vestige of freedom of thought. The example of the Oslo students and teachers will strengthen the resolution of all defenders of liberty throughout the world."

Council for the Promotion of Field Studies

As a result of a preliminary investigation carried out by Mr. F. H. C. Butler, a meeting convened by him was held on December 10 at the British Museum (Natural History) to inaugurate a Council for the Promotion of Field Studies. Attending this meeting were some thirty-five delegates appointed by universities of England and Wales, university colleges, scientific societies and institutions, including the National Trust and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Prof. F. E. Fritsch was in the chair. Mr. Butler made a general statement of the aims of the proposed Council. He had found, he said, very strong support for his view that the facilities for study and research in the field needed to be much improved; one of the main functions of the Council would be to establish and maintain hostels for field studies, under trained wardens, in various parts of the country. It seemed to be widely felt that the Council could fill a very important gap in our system of education both at the school and university level. His address was followed by a full and interesting discussion; the motion to form the Council was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The following were appointed as officers and members of the executive committee: Mr. F. H. C. Butler, Primrose Farm, Little Wilbraham, Cambridge, honorary secretary; Mr. C. C. Fagg, honorary treasurer; Prof. F. W. R. Brambell, Mr. M. C. Burkitt, Dr. A. R. Clapham, Dr. H. Godwin, Prof. W. T. Gordon, Mr. L. A. Harvey, Mr. O. D. Kendall, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, Prof. W. B. R. King, Mr. R. H. Kinvig, Prof. W. H. Pearsall, Mr. H. J. F. Smith, Prof. A. G. Tansley, Mr. R. R. Tomlinson, Prof. C. W. Wardlaw, Prof. C. M. Yonge. The Board of Education will be represented by Mr. F. H. B. Fox and the Scottish Education Department by Mr. J. W. Parker, who will act in an advisory capacity.