

Hydro-Electric Board. The activities of the Forestry Commission should be wound up so far as they apply to the Highlands of Scotland, and its functions transferred to a Scottish national parks section of the planning authority. The Scottish Department of Agriculture should cease to own and administer land and its holdings transferred to the planning authority. The Planning Section of the Scottish Department of Health should be considerably extended and its functions widened to cover supervision of development schemes proposed by the planning authority, and, until the latter is formed, of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board. Reform and re-alignment of Highland local authorities must accompany or result from the creation of a planning authority : in their present form they are incapable of contributing usefully to any fundamental scheme of economic reconstruction.

Patent Law Reform

A COMMITTEE has been appointed to consider and report whether any, and if so what, changes are desirable in the Patents and Designs Acts, and in the practice of the Patent Office and the Courts in relation to matters arising therefrom. In particular, the committee is to consider the conduct of legal proceedings arising out of the Patents and Designs Acts, including the constitution of the appropriate tribunals ; and, in connexion with the prevention of the abuse of monopoly rights, it will suggest amendments to facilitate settlement and the reduction of the cost of legal proceedings and encourage the use of inventions and the progress of industry and trade.

The committee is constituted as follows : Mr. Kenneth Swan, K.C. (chairman), Mr. Hubert Gill, Mr. James Mould, Captain B. H. Peter, Dr. D. R. Pye, Mrs. Joan Robinson, Mr. H. L. Saunders and Dr. A. J. V. Underwood.

Trade Unions in Great Britain

MRS. MARY AGNES HAMILTON's pamphlet "British Trade Unions" (Oxford Pamphlets on Home Affairs, No. H.47. Oxford University Press. 6d. net), which gives a brief survey of trade union history in Britain, is of particular interest for its description of the position of the trade unions in relation to the State and to society in Britain to-day. While the value of the trade union as a training ground for democracy is well brought out, and also its dependence upon democracy as a condition of effective functioning, neither the essential strength nor the weakness of trade unionism is indicated so clearly as might be expected. Mrs. Hamilton quotes Mr. Bevin's enunciation of the central idea "the liberty of the ordinary man and the right relationship between fellowmen" which is also the central idea of democracy ; but she fails to point out that the co-operation and collective bargaining represented by the trade unions is indispensable in the industrial and economic conditions of to-day. Without them our war effort could not easily have attained its present pitch, nor could many advances in welfare and the like have been so readily achieved. Equally she overlooks the innate conservatism of the trade unions, which is the real weakness that has hindered their making their full contribution to the development of democratic ideas and practice and to social and economic progress—a weakness as marked in the newer unions of technical and professional workers as among the older unions of manual workers in its customary sense.

Institute of Metals

In his presidential address to the Institute of Metals on March 15, the new president, Dr. W. T. Griffiths, devoted much of his attention to the widespread need for a greatly increased number of trained metallurgists in industry. Apart from stressing the demands to be made on institutions of university standing, he mentioned the probability that, in conjunction with other metallurgical bodies and the Board of Education, there is the probability of the immediate institution of National Certificates in Metallurgy similar to those already existing for engineering. This movement received both his own welcome and that of the Council of the Institute. The demand for the greater recognition of the profession of the metallurgist is under consideration by all three metallurgical institutions, and the probability was mentioned that some qualifying board, independent of, but working in co-operation with those bodies, would soon be set up. The desirability of co-operation between the Institute of Metals and the Iron and Steel Institute, already close, becoming still more intimate, a development to be welcomed on many grounds, was stressed, and the announcement that Mr. Headlam-Morley, the secretary of the Iron and Steel Institute, is to act, for the time being, as secretary of the Institute of Metals in succession to Mr. Shaw-Scott, is a clear indication of such an increasing unity of purpose.

The Institute of Metals Medal for 1944 was awarded to Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. R. M. Preston, president during 1940-42 of the Institute.

The Golgi Apparatus

In his presidential address to the Section of Zoology and Entomology of the thirty-first Indian Science Congress at Delhi, Prof. Vishwa Nath gave a general account of his own views on the nature of the Golgi element. He regards Golgi nets, dictyosomes, batonettes, rods and crescents as optical illusions, and one appearance only as genuine—that of a spherical osmophil and argentophil cortex enclosing a spherical chromophobe core. These plainly correspond with the externum and internum of Hirsch, and although Prof. Nath is strongly opposed to the vacuome theory of Parat, yet it seems likely that the chromophobe cores correspond with Parat's vacuoles. He opposes strongly the opinion that the Golgi element is concerned with cellular secretion, and argues that, on the contrary, it is transformed into such objects as others think it secretes. He is concerned to show that in forming the acrosome, the Golgi element is completely used up, a conclusion with which many students of this cell inclusion will find themselves in disagreement. It seems possible that the difference between secretion and transformation may to some extent be a verbal one, scarcely calling for the expression of such strong opinions as those of Prof. Nath. The greater part of the address was very clearly worded. Students of the Golgi element find themselves in disagreement on several matters, and it is helpful to all concerned when views are unequivocally expressed.

Nutrition Problems in Venezuela

THE August issue of the *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana* contains a note on this subject, which was discussed at the eleventh Pan-American Sanitary Congress at Rio de Janeiro in