

the technique of research on X-ray spectra. On his return to India he devoted himself to founding an active school of research on X-rays.

In 1935, he was elected to the Khaira chair of physics in the University of Calcutta.

Immediately before his death, Prof. Ray was carrying out researches on the absorption and emission spectra in the soft X-ray region. He was also conducting investigations on the luminescence of solids under X-ray bombardment. Prof. Ray had a charming and lovable personality and was very popular with his students. Science in India has suffered a great loss by his untimely death at the early age of fifty.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Edward F. Berry, professor of civil engineering at Syracuse University, on August 28, aged fifty-four.

Prof. E. F. Gaines, professor of genetics in agronomy and cerealist in the Agricultural Experiment Station of the State College of Washington, known for his work on the inheritance of disease resistance in cereals, on August 17, aged fifty-eight.

Dr. Walter L. Jennings, formerly professor of chemistry and later director of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts, on September 2, aged seventy-seven.

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Institute of International Affairs

THE annual report of the Council of the Royal Institute of International Affairs for the year ended June 30, 1944, gives a brief review of the growth of the work since the Institute was established in 1919 for the scientific study of international affairs. A committee was appointed by the Council on April 19, 1944, to review the developments of a quarter of a century, "to re-examine the purposes for which the Institute was founded; to inquire whether any change is desirable in the present activities of Chatham House, or any shift of emphasis in order to increase its influence and value". Researches into international problems published during these twenty-five years appearing in the growing list of volumes under the auspices of the Institute have already placed Chatham House on a footing comparable with the national institutions established in other fields. Strict adherence to the basic rule that the Institute should express no corporate opinion on any aspect of international affairs has contributed in no small measure to recognition of its integrity and to the attainment of its present position. Means of study have been provided for the serious student of international affairs. The Library is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in England, and has overflowed from its cramped quarters into more ample reading rooms. The Press archives are unique, and after the War, when these archives are returned to Chatham House by the Foreign Office Research Department and again become generally available, they will be a source of information that will attract scholars from all over the world.

With regard to the past year, the report refers to the opening on May 17, 1944, of the additional premises at 9 St. James's Square, London, the republication in January 1944 of *International Affairs* as a quarterly, by arranging for printing in Canada, and the opening in New York on February 1 of a Publications Office for distribution of the Institute's publications, and to the continuance of week-end courses on international affairs for officers and men of the Forces. A list of the fourteen courses arranged is appended, and the 300 available places at each were allocated among the Royal Navy, the British Army, Royal Air Force, Canadian Army and U.S. Army. The "British Year-Book of International Law", which was suspended at the outbreak of war, is to re-appear shortly as a Chatham House publication covering the period 1940-43. Reconstruction studies have continued, but only one report, "The

International Secretariat of the Future", was published during the year. A preliminary report of the group dealing with economic and social problems will be published shortly under the title "The Economic Lessons of the Nineteen-Thirties", as well as a series of pamphlets under the title "Looking Forward" to assist members of the general public to form their opinions on some of the principal international problems of reconstruction. One of these, by Dr. C. H. Desch, deals with "Science and the Social Order". Lists of individual studies published during the year, in the press or in progress are included; with notes on Far Eastern studies and the Institute of Pacific Relations, British Commonwealth relations, Allied research in London and on the work of the branches and of the institutes in the Dominions and in India.

Town and Country Planning in Britain

BULLETIN No. 4 of the Tory Reform Committee deals with "Government Policy for the Rebuilding of Urban Areas" as set forth in the Town and Country Planning Act, of which it gives a concise exposition. Development in Great Britain has hitherto been haphazard, uneconomical and unplanned for five reasons. The planning authorities have always been too small and there has been no central machinery co-ordinating local schemes in accordance with a national policy. Any planning authority inclined to take a less parochial view met financial difficulties resulting from its small size. Urban authorities were similarly penalized if they sought to make an enlightened dispersal of their population, because this meant handing rateable value to neighbouring authorities. Again, just where dispersal was most needed, land values rose sharply in proportion to the need for using the land. Compulsory acquisition by an authority was made slow, difficult and costly by the old piecemeal procedure.

The Tory Reform Committee holds that there can be no doubt that the elimination of all local inquiries, except in special cases, as was recommended by the Uthwatt Committee, would greatly expedite the compulsory acquisition of land, but it would be impossible to justify the compulsory purchase of the property of individuals without giving them an adequate opportunity of stating their objections. Again, it would be disastrous if post-war planning resulted merely in a tidier expansion of the existing industrial aggregations. What is really required is, first, the encouragement of industry into