

and the exchange of scientific information, as the restrictions placed on the entry of British scientific and technical periodicals to parts of Germany and to Japan at the present time indicate. Never perhaps could they take to themselves more appropriately than at this juncture the words of Sir Francis Drake's prayer that in endeavouring such a great matter "it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same until it is thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory".

POVERTY AND POLITICS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

The Danube Basin and the German Economic Sphere
By Dr. Antonin Basch. (International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction.) Pp. xiv+272. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1944.) 18s. net.

Germany and Europe

Political Tendencies from Frederick the Great to Hitler. By Dr. F. Darmstaedter. Pp. vi+226. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1945.) 12s. 6d. net.

DR. BASCH surveys in his book the economic problems of the Danubian States and their international repercussions—a subject of major importance for the period of reconstruction that has now begun, and one that has a vital bearing upon the future place of Germany among the nations. The book was written in 1943 and does not, therefore, take into account the important developments of recent months; but it provides a valuable study of the economy of a great region, extending from Czechoslovakia through Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria, to Greece, and, though it concentrates on the key period of the 'thirties, it glances back to the situation before 1914 and makes some constructive suggestions for the future.

The work is authoritative, for Dr. Basch himself played an active part in many of the developments he describes. As a leading Czech economist he combined for some years a teaching post at the University of Prague with economic research for the National Bank of the Republic: later he became head of the Czech chemical industry and a member of the Economic Board of the Little Entente. He is mainly concerned with the political and economic opportunities that were missed in 1919 and subsequent years, and with the need for a better understanding of the Danube region's role in international affairs, for he is able to show only too clearly how the indifference of Britain and France to the economic problems of the region played into Germany's hands. But underlying all that he says of the economic activities of the seven countries, with their total population of nearly eighty millions, is an awareness of the human tragedy of economic backwardness which the Nazis exploited for their own ends. The consumption of food, and especially of protective foods, Dr. Basch points out, was "extremely low" throughout most of the region: only about one seventh of the agricultural area was devoted to protective foods, as against one third in western Europe. Yet foodstuffs and other agricultural produce had to be exported in order to buy essential raw materials and manufactured goods.

It was this situation, aggravated by the world slump in agricultural prices, by German agricultural protection, and by the indifference of the Western

Powers (thus Britain, which before 1914 had bought Greek tobacco every year up to the value of £9,000,000, took only £20,000 worth in 1937), which gave Germany from 1934 the opportunity of using her purchasing power, through bulk buying, to turn the Danubian area into a dependent colonial, or semi-colonial, region, bound ever more closely to the Nazi military machine. German propagandists maintained that south-eastern Europe was the 'natural' sphere of German economic development and that the peoples in it would gain from their association with the Reich. In truth, German interest was rather in the military and strategic possibilities of economic control, as was made clear in 1941. Dr. Basch is able to show how heavily the bargain weighed against the Danubian peoples—and how little Germany gained, relatively, by her economic control. The conclusion is overwhelming that international, national and personal problems are indissoluble; that Europe cannot again run the risk of leaving the Danube area an agricultural slum. Peasant poverty and German hegemony are the same issues seen from different angles. The solution must lie in improved agriculture, with co-operative farming, in capital investment from abroad, in industrial development, and in the planned exploitation of natural resources. "An ultimate change in the economic and social status of this neglected region will provide a new and safer balance for Europe as a whole."

The nature of the German domination which turned peasant difficulties to its own ends is examined in Dr. Darmstaedter's book. He surveys the development of the German Power-State from the time of Frederick the Great, and sees it arising as the result of the weaknesses and divisions of German political life. Now National-Socialism has failed to give the German people the unity they have long sought, and a final solution of their problems can only be reached in a "European Commonwealth" in which Germany has an equal place. The argument is sound, if not always too clearly expressed: the conclusion would seem at the moment rather remote.

MAURICE BRUCE.

DEFICIENCY DISEASES IN BELGIUM

Les états de carence en Belgique pendant l'occupation Allemande 1940-1944

Par Lucien Brull, G. Barac, T. Brakier-Zelkowiecz, P. Clemens, R. Crismer, J. Deltombe, A. Divry, L. Dubois, L. Dumont, L. Dumont-Ruyters, A. Lambrechts, R. Neuprez, A. Nizet, M.-J. Op de Beeck, J. Piersotte et A. Thomas. (Institut de Clinique et de Policlinique médicales: Université de Liège.) Pp. 286. (Liège: Éditions Soledi; Paris: Hermann et Cie., 1945.) n.p.

THIS volume contains sixteen papers by different authors dealing with various aspects of dietetic deficiency as studied in Belgium during the years of German occupation.

Protein deficiency appears to have been the most important factor in the production of disease in wartime, and several papers are concerned with the effects of this deficiency on serum protein levels, cedema, etc.

Diseases due to vitamin deficiencies were little in evidence and the authors do not agree with the well-meaning theorists who advocated vitamin tablets where a square meal was wanted. Iron-deficiency anaemia and osteomalacia were likewise rare. The