

## 10/1 NEWS and VIEWS

## University of Bristol: Plans for Extension

ON October 29, at a meeting of representative men and women of the region, an appeal was launched for funds for the extension of the University of Bristol. The University has for some years been engaged in making plans for its future expansion and development. Although it possesses several fine buildings, certain departments are already cramped. In the Medical Faculty, teaching has been dispersed and accommodation was severely restricted even before the Department of Anatomy was destroyed in an air raid. With the expansion which must take place to meet the demands for both undergraduate teaching and graduate training and research, new buildings are a necessity. The scope of the Faculty of Engineering has recently been enlarged by the foundation of the Sir George White chair of aeronautical engineering. The Faculty is housed at some distance from the University in a building on which it has no permanent hold, and new quarters are necessary here, too. Both in the Faculties of Arts and Science certain departments require more room, especially in view of the growing numbers of staff and scholars engaged on research.

Apart from such natural expansion, several new departments are in preparation. It has long been felt that the University of a great agricultural region should make a direct contribution to the interests of the countryside, but it has also been felt that work already done elsewhere in the south of England should not be duplicated. The proposal that a School of Veterinary Science should be established at Bristol has now provided an opportunity which will be taken. A Field Station is already available, and the pre-clinical teaching will be provided for in the new Medical School. It is further proposed to institute a graduate diploma in horticulture for students already possessing an honours degree in one of the sciences bearing on that subject. The purpose is to provide men with a training in fundamental science capable of carrying out research on applied lines. This will be done in association with the Research Station at Long Ashton. The University also proposes to set up an Institute of Education on the lines of Scheme A of the McNair Report, and will thus assume responsibility for the training of teachers in a group of associated colleges.

The demand for a general increase in the numbers of men and women taking university courses lays a special obligation on a University formerly small in numbers and therefore capable of economic expansion, and it is proposed to plan for an ultimate student population of some 3,000. It has been urged on the University that its situation, and the amenities it enjoys, make it specially suitable for development on residential lines. The suggestion is welcome, and fits in with past policy. There are already three fine Halls which formerly allowed all students not living in the city to spend one or two years in residence: further, the University had been successful in evolving a system of student life intermediate between the collegiate and the institutional. It has just acquired four mansions which give a material increase in living room. As a most important item in its plans, it puts the provision of several new Halls. The site for these, in fine and open surroundings, within reasonable distance of the University, is already available, and an immediate objective is the building of two

new Halls to be called after Mr. Winston Churchill, chancellor of the University, with whose name the appeal has been associated.

## Universities Quarterly

THE need for a journal wholly devoted to university education and the vital problems affecting university development has grown more urgent in recent years. *Universities Quarterly*, the first number of which has just been published, is an attempt to meet this need. Its primary purpose is to discuss—"with complete freedom and from all angles"—what can best be done by the universities themselves, industry and the Government, to enable the universities to adapt their teaching, research, and, if need be, guiding philosophy, to meet the demands of a rapidly changing society. The journal is not, in consequence, intended solely—or even primarily—for members of university staffs. Rather is it the intention of the editorial board, of which Sir Ernest Simon is chairman, that many of the articles will be of interest also to those engaged in public life, the Civil Service, local government, and teaching work in secondary schools and technical colleges. Catholicity of appeal is, perhaps, the most notable feature of the first number. Bertrand Russell urges that most students should learn something of the fundamentals of philosophic thinking. Bonamy Dobrée discusses knowledge for its own sake. Sir William Larke writes on industry and the universities. Sir Ernest Simon deals with the problems of expansion and development facing the universities as a result of the growing national demand for higher education. Other features include an article by Dr. O. C. Carmichael on "Higher Education in the United States", a series of short contributions on "Why Compulsory Philology?", and book reviews. The last, which ought undoubtedly to have a major place in a journal of this type, is unfortunately the weakest feature in the first number. *Universities Quarterly* is published by Turnstile Press, Ltd., 10 Great Turnstile, London, W.C.1, and the price is 5s. per issue.

## Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain

THE annual report, for 1945-46, of the president and council of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain Ltd. (from the Association, River Plate House, 12-13 South Place, London, E.C.2) remarks on the growing appreciation of the part that scientific instruments and laboratory apparatus play in science, industry and education, and how this has, to a large extent, contributed to the continued expansion and progress of the Association. The report records that, during the year under review, twelve new firms joined the Association; bringing its total membership up to eighty-six, and that the formation of a new section, dealing with electronics, is under consideration. At the last annual general meeting, the council was empowered to appoint a permanent director of the Association, and although seventy replies were received to advertisements in the Press, it was decided, after full consideration, that an approach be made to the British Scientific Instruments Research Association, with which the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association actively collaborates, for the appointment of Mr. A. J. Philpot as director of both bodies.

Many new problems have faced the Association during the year, and the council has expressed,