

an educational proposition is presented, not so much novel as coercive. Its essential character is preparation for a new type of spade-work. That will take time. Luckily, there are already signs that the cracks in the superstructure have been noticed. Two examples, both recent, will illustrate. First, discussions on the possible reform, in certain major respects, of the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge have led to proposals for the inclusion of historical and philosophical studies in the curriculum and examinations<sup>2</sup>. It is too early as yet to anticipate what the result will be; the important point is that such views should have been expressed, and that with no lack of vigour and seriousness.

The second portent is the formation of a Group, affiliated to the British Society for the History of Science, to study the philosophy of the sciences in the widest possible sense, including symbolic logic and aesthetics. (The relevance of all this to Whitehead's expression of faith already mentioned will not be overlooked.) So far, the new venture promises well.

Next, in what way or ways can people, by either of these movements, be influenced to behave axio-

logically, that is, perform valuable service? The answer is contained implicitly in the Cambridge report. There is a need, it suggests, for a new type of administrator, with a scientific background and habit of mind. What better than that he or she should be fashioned on these generous lines? To achieve distinction at the highest level in this new field must not be easy. If arrangements are adequate, it will certainly be no 'soft option'. Probably it assumes a degree of maturity more complete than is always the case, though that is in itself no reason why as much as possible should not be done at a less specialized stage. It should, moreover, be capable of interesting students in the faculty of fine arts, and thus to sow the seed in potentially fertile soil. Aesthetics has need of a magnanimous and strong methodology to support it. No longer should be heard within it such words as "Those [are the wounds] with which I was wounded in the house of my friends"<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Ruskin, "Modern Painters", 5, Part 9.

<sup>2</sup> Milne, The Scott Lecture, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, 62, 10 (1943).

<sup>3</sup> *Cambridge University Reporter*, November 9, 1948.

<sup>4</sup> Zechariah, xiii, v. 6.

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## NEWS and VIEWS

### Zoological Society of London :

Mr. H. G. Maurice, C.B.

MR. HENRY GASCOYEN MAURICE has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Zoological Society of London, in recognition of his great services to the Society. This Medal has been awarded only three times previously since its foundation in 1877. Mr. Maurice has been a member of the Council of the Zoological Society almost continuously since 1926, and was president during 1942-48; since retiring from the office of president he has continued to serve as a vice-president. He took office in the middle of the War at a very critical time in the history of the Society, and it was largely the result of his wise conduct of its meetings that the various difficulties of those years were overcome. Mr. Maurice's long interest in natural history and Nature protection covers a wide range. He was fisheries secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries during 1912-38. His wide knowledge of problems connected with the fishing industry made him an ideal president of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, a position he occupied for eighteen years. On his retirement he was appointed 'president d'honneur', and in 1937 awarded the Gold Medal of the Johannes Schmidt Foundation for Oceanographical Research. Since October 1936, he has been secretary of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, and editor of its journal; and, in addition, he has taken a very active part in all problems connected with Nature protection. He was in charge of the British delegation to the meeting at Fontainebleau in October last year, which resulted in the foundation of the International Union for the Protection of Nature; and he was elected a vice-president and member of the executive council of this Union. Some of Mr. Maurice's fascinating essays on natural history have recently been issued in book form, "Sometimes an Angler" and "The Wisdom of the Ass"

### British Agricultural Advisers in North America : Dr. W. F. Darke

THE Agricultural Departments and the Commonwealth Relations Office announce that Mr. J. A. Young, assistant agricultural adviser to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ottawa, is returning to Northern Ireland in April at the end of his period of duty in Canada. His place will be taken by Dr. W. F. Darke, who will have the rank of secretary (agriculture) in the High Commissioner's office. Dr. Darke entered the University of London in 1930, taking his B.Sc.(Econ.) degree in 1933. He was awarded a research scholarship by the Agricultural Research Council and worked at Oxford and at the University of California. In 1936 he was awarded the degree of Ph.D.(Econ.) (London) and a year later that of B.Litt. by the University of Oxford for part of his work on the history of the small-holdings movement. Dr. Darke was appointed to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in May 1938 as a junior economist. He was seconded to United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in August 1944, and in 1947 took up duty with the Food and Agriculture Organisation; he returned to the Ministry of Agriculture in January last year.

Mr. M. W. Taylor

THE Agricultural Departments and the Foreign Office announce that Mr. P. J. Macfarlan, assistant agricultural attaché in the British Embassy at Washington, is returning to the United Kingdom in May on the completion of his two-years appointment, and will be replaced by Mr. M. W. Taylor. Mr. Taylor went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and studied agriculture. During 1933-41 he was engaged in poultry farming on his own account, after which he was appointed senior biology master at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. Later he became technical adviser and superintendent of the experimental farm for the