

adoption of the 40-hour week are less convincing and make partisan reading. The whole question is discussed too much apart from the fundamental problems of distribution and social economics to which reference was made in our leading article.

#### Science and the State in Germany

THE publication in the *Times* of July 24, 25, 27, and 28, of extracts from Herr Hitler's book on the eve of its publication in an abbreviated translation, and the simultaneous account by the *Times* correspondent on July 27 of a Bill approved by the German Government for the compulsory sterilisation of those "considered in the light of medical science as it is understood to-day to be by heredity unfit" give a more illuminating view of the real significance of the Nazi movement than has yet appeared. That the Nazi leader stands self-revealed as ill-balanced, fanatical and otherwise abnormal is immaterial. What is supremely significant is that he has come into power on a wave of popular discontent with present-day social, political and economic conditions which is sufficiently intense to submit to previously unheard of restrictions for which a 'scientific' backing is advanced. Unfortunately, not all the Nazi measures can be supported by argument as sound scientifically as that upon which the sterilisation of the unfit is advocated. Herr Hitler's views of 'Aryans' and Jews and their qualities and character, to accord with which the German race of the future is to be moulded, belong to a 'science' which would be out of date even if it had not failed to justify itself when submitted to the test of scientific analysis. The German people, however, are not alone as victims of the world crisis, and if, as events seem to portend, the world is moving towards a solution of its difficulties through the application of scientific method to its problems by means of a more highly organised form of government than is possible in a pure democracy, it cannot be too widely appreciated outside scientific circles that the science which will provide the solution of our difficulties is not reactionary and does not exclude eminence in any field, whatever its racial origin—in short, it is not the 'science' of Herr Hitler.

#### Ross Institute and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

PROPOSALS for the amalgamation of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have recently been issued. Argument in favour of amalgamation centres around the promotion of work for the good of the Empire and the prevention of overlapping of the activities of the two bodies. As a result of the amalgamation, a permanent memorial to Sir Ronald Ross will be established in the School in the form of a department to be called the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene. Laboratory accommodation will be provided for Sir Aldo Castellani, at present director of tropical medicine and dermatology at the Ross Institute. He will also be appointed to the staff of the School with the title of director. Sir Malcolm Watson, at present director of tropical hygiene and principal of the Department

of Malaria Control at the Ross Institute, will be appointed director of tropical hygiene at the School. The India branch of the Ross Institute will become an intrinsic part of the amalgamated body, and Dr. G. C. Ramsay will continue as principal of the India branch. Major Lockwood Stevens, organising secretary of the Ross Institute, will join the School in a similar capacity.

#### Imperial Standard Measures

THE statutory decennial comparisons of the Imperial standards of length and mass with their Parliamentary copies became due in 1932. On the last occasion, in 1922, they were carried out at the Standards Department of the Board of Trade under the supervision of Mr. J. E. Sears, Jr., the superintendent of the Metrology Department of the Laboratory, who was at that time acting also as deputy warden of the standards. By a subsequent agreement between the Board of Trade and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, it was arranged that the National Physical Laboratory should in future undertake the whole of these comparisons on behalf of the Board. The present series of comparisons is accordingly being carried out at the Laboratory. The primary object of the comparisons is the verification of the Parliamentary copies of the Imperial Standard Pound and Yard, any one of which could be used to replace the corresponding Imperial standard should it suffer loss or destruction. There are for each standard five Parliamentary copies; one is immured in Westminster Palace, and one each of the others is in the custody of the Royal Society, the Mint, Greenwich Observatory and the Standards Department.

In addition to this work, a redetermination of the relationship between the pound and the kilogram will shortly be made, following the scheme which was adopted for the first time in 1922-23. The International Bureau of Weights and Measures, Sèvres, has been invited to undertake a share of the comparisons in this part of the programme. Finally, the principal reference standard pounds at the National Physical Laboratory, together with an auxiliary standard pound belonging to the Board of Trade, will be verified by comparison with one or more of the Parliamentary copies of the pound; a corresponding verification of kilogram standards from the Laboratory and the Board of Trade will also be made. The weighings are being made on a new balance which has recently been constructed at the Laboratory for precision weighings of the highest accuracy. This balance is contained in an inner vault, and all its controls are operated from outside, so that the observer does not enter the vault during any one series of weighings. The indications of the balance are recorded optically on a scale placed some seven metres away.

#### Empire Cotton Growing Corporation

THE director of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, Sir James Currie, stated at the meeting of