

News and Views

Central Asiatic Research

WE have received a communication from Mr. T. K. Koo of Peiping, China, in reference to the article "Research in Central Asia" which appeared in *NATURE* of May 20, p. 705. Not only does Mr. Koo regard our statement of the problem as fair, but he admits that exploration has been made difficult by the Chinese, in a reaction against the too great freedom previously granted to foreigners. He goes on to comment on the two most conspicuous instances to which reference was made in *NATURE*, namely those of Sir Aurel Stein and Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews. Their difficulties, writing from his own knowledge in both cases, he attributes entirely to personal reasons. Both explorers would appear to have offended the susceptibilities of the Chinese. It is beyond question that the Chinese deeply resent Dr. Andrews's general attitude towards them and, more particularly, the tone of his references to the National Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities. Mr. Koo concludes his letter with an expression of opinion that if an international body for scientific investigation, as suggested, should some day become a reality, the difficulties of the present situation would vanish. While *NATURE* does not feel called upon to comment further on the merits of the contentions put forward by either side, beyond once more deploring the fact that personal matters should have blocked research in an extremely important field, it may, perhaps, be suggested that members of scientific expeditions should take a leaf from the books of their anthropological colleagues, and grasp the outlook of the peoples among whom they have to work. These are, after all, the heirs of the ages which the geologist, the palaeontologist and the archæologist desire to investigate.

AN apposite reminder that co-operation between Europeans and Chinese in research expeditions has not proved impossible in all cases is afforded by the communication from the Peking correspondent of the *Times* in the issue of August 5 on the completion of the six years' work of the joint Swedish and Chinese expedition to the Gobi Desert under the leadership of Dr. Sven Hedin. This expedition had already been launched when, in 1927, Chinese policy in the matter of European exploration was changed; and in the following year it became definitely a joint Swedish and Chinese undertaking. There were then twenty-eight members on the scientific staff, between whom, Dr. Hedin has stated, no discrimination was made either in work or in camp life. All were treated alike. In the allocation of the work in the various branches of research, geology, palaeontology, topography, archæology, meteorology, astronomy and so forth, one, two, or three Chinese men of science worked side by side with the Europeans engaged in each special investigation. Of the remarkable results achieved in the earlier years of the expedition, Dr. Hedin has already given some preliminary account; and further reports on the latest results will be awaited impatiently by the scientific

world. It is significant, however, that writing in 1931, at the time when additional subsidies from Sweden had ensured the work of the expedition for a further period of two years, he was able to record the successful achievement of the Chinese workers, such as, to mention two examples only, Prof. P. L. Yuan, the chief Chinese geologist, and Mr. Hwang Wen-pi, the archæologist, while praising the account of the expedition published in 1930 by Prof. Hsü Ping-Chang, the Chinese leader (see also *NATURE*, 130, 151, July 30, 1932). In any estimate of the present situation, a record such as that of the Sino-Swedish expedition, covering a period of six years, must carry weight.

Institute of Industrial Administration

THE Institute of Industrial Administration, 47 King William Street, London, E.C.4, has as its objects the raising of management to the status of an organised profession; the encouragement of the maintenance of appropriate professional standards; and the development of the science and technique of Industrial Administration by papers, conferences and research. Although not a teaching body it holds examinations and grants certificates and diplomas, and in other ways promotes the education of students in the principles and practice of industrial administration. The new syllabus of Stage I under the title of "Fundamentals of Industrial Administration" is identical in content with syllabuses recently adopted by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The stage is designed to introduce the candidate to a general understanding of the place of industry in the world of affairs, the controlling influences under which it operates and the functions involved in its management, and the syllabus well illustrates the valuable work which the Institute is doing towards placing industrial administration on a scientific and professional basis.

THE first part of the syllabus deals broadly with the background and external factors of industrial administration; the second with the internal administration of the average industrial unit. The syllabus as a whole calls for a preliminary insight into many branches of knowledge which the student will find it necessary to explore at much greater length as, and when, he acquires industrial experience and seeks executive responsibility. In addition, a Students' Union has been formed which gives students the opportunity to hear authoritative papers on every function of business management and to discuss their problems with experienced business men and fellow students. The programme arranged by the London Group of the Union for 1933-4 includes papers by Mr. J. G. Rose on "General Management", Major L. J. Barley on "Product Development", Mr. A. G. Hill on "Market Research", Commander H. S. M. Ellis on "Advertising in Relation to Management" and Mr. R. R. Hyde on "The Human Problems of Management"