been found to be, on the whole, extremely accurate within the area studied. The latter phase of his work with the United States Geological Survey was concerned with the investigation of the granite, marble and slate industries of New England and the United States, the results of which work, published in the Survey bulletins, have long been considered standard references among quarry men as well as in colleges and universities.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Major E. E. Austen, formerly keeper of the Department of Entomology in the British Museum (Natural History), on January 16, aged sixty years.

Mr. Wilfred H. Parker, director of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Cambridge, on January 11, aged forty-nine years.

Prof. Otto Warburg, formerly professor of botany in the Oriental Seminary, Berlin, lately chief of the Institute of Natural History of Palestine in the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on January 10, aged seventy-eight years.

WE are glad to state that the announcement, printed in NATURE of January 15 (p. 109), recording the death of Prof. Otto H. Warburg, For.Mem.R.S., is incorrect. Prof. Warburg had been confused in press messages with Prof. Otto Warburg, whose death is announced above.

News and Views

A World Association for Science and Society

AT a time when restrictions are being placed upon freedom of scientific work and speech in some countries, and when the nations look to science for the materials of destruction, the momentous pronouncement of the American Association at Indianapolis is a challenge to science and to society (see p. 169 of this issue). No men of science who, in the words of the corporate resolution passed by the Council of the American Association, "regard the suppression of independent thought and of its free expression as a major crime against civilization itself", can ignore that challenge. Nor is the British Association likely to disregard the invitation to co-operate in forming the nucleus of what will be a World Association for the Advancement of Science and Society—an international 'brains trust'—since it was the success of the Blackpool meeting and its concern for social problems which inspired the recent action in the United States. What the American visitors heard there, in the free and constructive addresses delivered by scientific workers on the effects of science on social problems, convinced them that men of science, with unsealed lips, had a great contribution to make to world order. The symposium on "Science and Society", at their Indianapolis meeting, was their first response. The resolutions of their council, proclaiming a Magna Charta of scientific freedom, reaffirming the democracy of knowledge, and inviting all who could subscribe to the free principles of science to join in world co-operation, carried the lesson of the British Association into world affairs.

THE language of the resolutions is forthright and uncompromising. It will not tolerate intolerance. It demands a free trade in scientific knowledge and the recognition that the object of science is the advancement of the well-being of all mankind. As the *New York Times* said in the leading article endorsing the proposals which Mr. Ritchie Calder made in the *Daily Herald* for a Magna Charta and an Anglo-American nucleus, and which led to the American Association taking it up: "He has not exaggerated. To save science his 'World Association' is needed, an organization which shall indicate how the objective attitude of the laboratory may be applied in governing a people, in breaking down prejudices, in preventing war, in solving problems that mean progress not in one country alone but the world over." It is an ambitious project, but the ideals it propounds are those of science itself. Objectivity in a world of misrepresentation and dangerous prejudices is sorely needed. The social inquiries of the League of Nations' Technical Commission on Nutrition, and its parent body the Mixed Commission of the League, are examples of how the principles of science may be universally applied.

WHILE, however, it is important to provide a platform from which men of science throughout the world can proclaim the truths of science, it is also important that a World Association, to fulfil its objectives, must have the means to initiate inquiries, collect data and be prepared to co-operate with the social forces for peace and progress. In all the vicissitudes of the political history of the League of Nations, the International Labour Office and the Health Organisation have carried on their constructive humanitarian work. A similar organization for science, more effective and far-reaching than the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation, would give substance to the spirit of the American proposals. It would be a World Association, safeguarding the independence of scientific workers and of scientific thought, willing to co-operate with all nations which are prepared to work for the good of mankind, but, as an association, subject to none.