

NEWS AND VIEWS

Organization of French Scientific Services in Britain

DR. ANDRÉ LABARTHE, as already announced, has been appointed by General de Gaulle to take charge of technical armament services and scientific research for the French National Committee. M. Labarthe, who was born in 1902, was a pupil of the late Prof. Gabriel Koenigs, and specialized in experimental mechanics. After a year in the physical research laboratories of the Ministry for Air, he went to the laboratory for physical and experimental mechanics at the Faculty of Sciences, Paris, where he became *assistant* (1931), and then *chargé de conférences* (1934). His thesis for his D.Sc. dealt with photo-electric methods of measuring pressure, the measurement of torsion, and integrating manometers. In addition, he has studied ultra-rapid cinematography, detonation, and internal combustion engines, particularly Diesel engines. M. Labarthe was the head of a delegation sent to Germany in 1934 to study the Diesel engine, and he has also visited England and the United States to inspect scientific and industrial laboratories. In France he has been technical director in the Department of Aeronautics, and recently director of the Station Nationale de Recherches d'Expériences technique and director of the laboratories at Bellevue. He has received the Plumey Prize of the Paris Academy.

On the outbreak of the War, M. Labarthe put his valuable knowledge of armaments in general, and of internal combustion engines in particular, at the disposal of the French Government, and he was recently technical director and adviser to the Ministry of Public Works. Not only did he succeed in leaving France after the general collapse, but also he managed to bring with him to Great Britain a ship carrying a valuable cargo of copper. In addition to his purely scientific publications, M. Labarthe is the author of "La France devant la guerre," a remarkable study of the 'war potential' of the belligerent nations. That book finishes with a quotation from Lacordaire which to-day has new significance: "Tant qu'un peu de sang français subsistera, la Justice aura sur terre un soldat armé".

War-time Livestock Problems: Advisory Committee

A COMMITTEE to consider war-time livestock production problems has been set up by the Minister of Agriculture. The members of the Committee are: The Right Honourable Lord Moyne, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture; Prof. A. W. Ashby, professor of agricultural economics, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Mr. A. I. Eastwood, London wholesale meat trade supervisor of the Ministry of Food; Mr. G. Gibbard, chairman of the Livestock Committee, National Farmers' Union of England and Wales; Mr. W. Graham, president, National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture for Scotland; Dr. John Hammond, Animal Nutrition

Research Institute, University of Cambridge; Mr. J. Mackintosh, National Institute for Research in Dairying, University of Reading; Mr. W. G. R. Paterson, principal, West of Scotland Agricultural College; Mr. T. Peacock, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales; Mr. W. J. Reid, member of the Scottish Agricultural Advisory Council. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. H. Gardner, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Registration of Engineers

THE Minister of Labour and National Service has made an order for the compulsory registration of professional engineers. Registration is with the Central Register. It refers to those who are normally engaged in a technical or supervisory capacity in aeronautical, automobile, chemical, civil, structural and municipal, electrical, gas, locomotive or mechanical engineering; and those normally engaged on research work in the engineering sciences at a university or in research and development work in any industry or as a teacher of engineering science. Men whose names are already on the Central Register are not to register again. There are 22,000 names in the engineering categories of the register, of whom about 800 are not in employment, and it is estimated that 30,000 more names will now be added.

The Rise of Turkey

A PAMPHLET "Turkey: the Modern Miracle" by E. W. F. Tomlin, published in "The Thinker's Forum" (London: Watts and Co. 6d. net), gives a brief review of the development of Turkey during the nineteenth century and since under Mustapha Kemal. In outlining the reforms introduced under Mustapha Kemal, while pointing out the extent to which Turkey is a totalitarian country with the People's Party as the supreme organization, its constitution is not so autocratic as might be expected. Its activities are not devoted solely to propaganda, and no institution is more democratic than the People's House or Halk Eir. Modern Turkey is impressed throughout with the spirit of youth, and Turkish education is highly practical and surprisingly democratic. The younger generation is encouraged to use its reason. A passage in the official text-book on citizenship used in all the Turkish primary schools runs: "We shall educate our children in a way which makes them capable of using their brains even in unaccustomed circumstances, of taking necessary decisions without waiting for orders from above, of developing a spirit of enterprise and a desire to overcome all difficulties which may block their way". In a tribute to Mustapha Kemal's achievements, Mr. Tomlin points out that he created a new order of society; a society liberated from the bonds of obscurantism, inefficiency and brutalizing superstition, out of material which seemed at the time to be beyond all reclamation.