

larger museums, but its fulfilment, both in Great Britain and elsewhere, would seem to require closer co-operation between the museums, all other kinds of educational institutions, scientific and art societies, and individual specialists than has generally been the case hitherto. Only when the work of each is mutually understood and appreciated will the museum be able to establish itself fully as the link between the research worker and specialist, who continually advance our knowledge, and the ordinary men and women, who need to be kept informed of such advances.

With regard to school services an interesting development in the Dominion Museum is well worth attention. Before the War, this Museum provided regular instruction for visiting classes of school-children. On each visit the children were first given a lecture—usually illustrated by a film—in the lecture hall. There then followed a lesson in the Museum. Here the children were divided into groups, each of which was under the charge and instruction of a student teacher from the training college. Six teachers at a time attended the Museum for this purpose for a period of six weeks, and in this way gained valuable experience in the use of museum material. They, themselves, were instructed by members of the Museum's professional staff, and so, "... the value of the museum to the community was emphasized to the students, who left the institution with sufficient knowledge of its capabilities and functions to enable them to educate their future charges in the purposeful use of the public museums". Part 2 of this valuable pamphlet deals more particularly with the present buildings, administration, equipment, finance, etc., of New Zealand museums.

Belgian Biological Publications during the War

DR. JULIAN HUXLEY has received a letter from Prof. C. J. Van der Klaauw, of the Department of Zoology of the University of Leyden, and one of the directors of *Acta*-, *Folia*-, *Bibliographia*-, *Bibliotheca-Biotheoretica*. Prof. Van der Klaauw states that he is well, as is also his lecturer in experimental zoology, Dr. N. Tinbergen, although both of them spent some two years in a concentration camp, with about twenty of their colleagues from Leyden. After release from imprisonment, Prof. Van der Klaauw was exiled to the eastern part of Belgium. He adds that Prof. H. J. Jordan, professor of comparative physiology in the University of Utrecht, died of apoplexy during the War.

During the occupation of Belgium, vigorous efforts were made—with a considerable measure of success—to keep alive the biological journals referred to above, and to maintain their international character. Since May 1940, the last two parts of vol. 5 of *Acta Biotheoretica* have appeared. They contain a paper by a German (Frieling), three by writers in the United States (Rashevsky, Lafleur) and one by a Russian in France (Kostitzin, in French). Vol. 6 appeared in 1942, containing four papers in German (Friederichs, Hofstaetter, Kuhn, Meyer-Abich), two by a Pole (Wilzýnsky, in English and French), and one by a Dutchman (Ariëns Kappers, in English). Vol. 7 appeared in 1943 and contains three papers in German (Meyer-Abich, Friederichs, Thienemann), one by a Norwegian (Ubisch, in German), three by Dutchmen (Voûte, Raven, Pos; two of them in French, one in English); two papers by a Pole (Wilzýnsky, in English). Another paper by Wilzýnsky (in English) and one by a Dutchman (Baas

Becking, in English) will fill part of the next volume. The series entitled *Bibliotheca Biotheoretica* started during the War. There have appeared: No. 1 (1941), a paper by Prof. H. J. Jordan, in German; No. 2 (1942), a rather long paper in German by a Russian (Schaxel); No. 3 (1942), a long paper in English by Dr. N. Tinbergen; No. 4 (1944), a long paper in English by two Dutchmen (Booy and Wolvekamp). In the series *Bibliographia Biotheoretica* there appeared: Vol. 2 (literature 1930-34) in 1941, the last part of Vol. 3 (1935-39) in 1942, and in 1944 the first part (82 pp.) of the fourth volume (literature 1940-44).

Prof. Van der Klaauw and his colleagues have clearly done their best to maintain the international scope of the periodicals produced by the Prof. Dr. Jan Van der Hoeven-Stichting. They hope that British scientific workers will use their journals in the future.

Historical Background of Planning

IN Occasional Pamphlet No. 1 issued by the Society for Freedom in Science (April 1945. 1s. 6d.), under the title "Is the Progress of Science Controlled by the Material Wants of Man?", Dr. F. Sherwood Taylor makes a spirited attack on the main thesis of a memorandum issued by the Association of Scientific Workers in November 1943 on "The Development of Science". Dr. Taylor challenges the historical arguments advanced in that memorandum in favour of the planning of science and, apart altogether from the question whether or not those arguments are justly inferred from true historical data, Dr. Taylor's pamphlet is to be welcomed as a corrective to an undoubted tendency to mix propaganda and history. It should stimulate clearer thinking about the development of science: science, he reminds us, is something done by people, and if it is organized at all, it is organized by people. He urges that no causes should be looked for outside the internal logic of science, until those within it have been exhausted. Listing the great discoveries of the years 1775-1800, he considers that only Watt's improvements in the steam engine, Cort's puddling of iron and Jenner's vaccination can be said to be dictated by human needs; and similarly, while applied science workers are concerned to bring the discoveries in pure science into rapid use, the great discoveries of the last fifty years were not dictated by human needs. Simply from the point of view of causing discoveries to be made, the community must take a long-term view and encourage science to advance in its own way.

Dr. Taylor frankly challenges the practicability of planning pure science, even by men of science; let the community plan applied science if it can, he says. If any planning or direction of funds has to be done, let the planning and direction be on the basis of the maximum increase of research directed to knowledge and irrespective of use. But while he rightly argues that to ensure the maximum of scientific research will give the maximum useful rewards to the whole world, he passes over the fact that resources are limited, that the research front is uneven and advance in some fields is retarded by neglect elsewhere. So, too, while he is right to urge the reading of the works of the great men of science instead of modern books advancing not wholly uncoloured views about them—advice which might well be heeded by many scientific workers, apart from the public, who would thus be better able to