

resigned to serve as civilian educational specialist at a U.S. Army university study centre in Europe.

Dr. Snell, a native of Binghamton, N.Y., has been active as teacher, research worker, author and leader in chemistry. She received the degree of bachelor of science from Syracuse University in 1919, and for the next two years taught mathematics in a high-school. Her career in chemistry began after her marriage to Dr. Foster D. Snell in 1921. She took undergraduate courses at Barnard College, and pursued graduate studies at Columbia University, from which she received the M.A. degree in 1925 and the Ph.D. in 1930. Dr. Snell became research assistant in the pediatric department of the Fifth Avenue Hospital, and then spent a short period in the pathology department of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, eventually joining the organization headed by her husband. Dr. Snell was secretary of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society during 1937-44, and is chairman of the Women's Service Committee of the American Chemical Society. She is the author, with Foster D. Snell, of "Colorimetric Methods of Analysis", in two volumes; "Chemicals of Commerce" and "Chemistry Made Easy", in four volumes.

### Men of Science in the Modern State

In his speech at the closing plenary session of the Commonwealth and Empire Conference on Radio for Civil Aviation on August 20, Lord Winster, Minister of Civil Aviation, said that among several myths which have been destroyed during the War has been that of the superiority of German men of science and of the degree of co-ordination which had been arrived at in Germany between science and industrial and war production. The course of the War showed not only that the United Nations have men of science second to none, but also that we have been far more successful in marrying their knowledge and their labours into the national war effort. Furthermore, it is now acknowledged that in future provision must be made in Britain for the training in its colleges and universities of far more scientific and technical workers than in the past, and that the pursuit of a scientific career must be made much more attractive in such matters as status and salary. These facts, Lord Winster said, are now recognized "and recognition will, I believe, be translated into action".

Lord Winster continued in a vein which will recall many an article in these columns. We have seen, he said, in the field of research what teamwork backed by unlimited funds can do. We have entered into a field in which the man of science will bring us knowledge which not merely enriches and facilitates the progress of the world but also determines the lines which progress shall take. If this is so we must alter our outlook upon the man of science; no longer can he be regarded as an interesting but unpractical individual. Even in the War of 1914-18 he did not achieve any very tangible recognition; in this War, thanks largely to Mr. Churchill, he has been coming into his own, and from now on he will be part of the warp and woof of the national life. In the future, the scientific worker by his discoveries will be determining the course the world will take. For this reason he must be brought out of the 'backroom' and brought in at the very highest level, not only for consultation about national affairs but also as regards the actual direction of those affairs.

### Research in Animal Breeding and Genetics in Great Britain

As part of the survey which the Agricultural Research Council, in conjunction with the Agricultural Improvement Councils for England and Wales and Scotland, has been making of fields of research in which expansion is needed, special attention has been given to animal breeding and genetics as a subject of outstanding importance. After considering advice on developments in this field given by a special survey group, for which the American Government generously made available the services of Dr. R. T. Clark of Montana, and after consultation with the departments of agriculture, the Agricultural Research Council has appointed to its scientific staff Prof. R. G. White, professor of agriculture in the University College of North Wales, Bangor, and Dr. C. H. Waddington, of the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge. Their first task will be to prepare a scheme for the creation of a national organization for research in animal breeding and genetics, covering the needs of Great Britain. Prof. White will be the director and Dr. Waddington will be chief geneticist.

It will be necessary for Prof. White and Dr. Waddington to investigate the systems adopted in other countries for the development of research in this field, so that a complete scheme cannot be ready for some time, though certain investigations of a statistical and fundamental character can be started in the near future. It cannot, of course, be indicated at present what centre or centres will be chosen for the development of research. The Council is, however, anxious that in any new developments full advantage should be taken of the experience of the Institute of Animal Genetics at the University of Edinburgh, which for so long has contributed to knowledge of these subjects and has been the centre of postgraduate training for workers from many countries. Similarly, it is the Council's intention, by close co-operation with practical breeders and the representatives of the agricultural industry throughout Great Britain, as well as with Milk Marketing Boards and other interested organizations, that arrangements shall be made whereby records are kept in such a form as to give the greatest measure of assistance to research workers in the new organization, and to be of real value in guiding the improvement of livestock. Research on such slow-breeding animals as farm stock must necessarily be lengthy, and results which can be applied with confidence in breeding practice cannot, therefore, be expected to emerge quickly.

### International Co-operation in Social and Economic Fields

A PAMPHLET, "The New I.L.O.", issued by the British Association for Labour Legislation, with an introduction by Barbara Ward, considers the position of the International Labour Organisation in relation to the Economic and Social Council of the Dumbarton Oaks plan, with the object of stimulating discussion on the planning of international co-operation in social and economic matters. Reviewing the past experience of the International Labour Organisation, the pamphlet is critical of the tripartite structure and questions the value of representation of employers except on the managerial or technical basis. A government should be the representative of the community as a whole, but governments should admit the workers also to the discussion of economic as well as of social problems, primarily to provide tech-



nical and constructive advice. In view of the clash and overlapping between general economic and social questions, the pamphlet appears to be dubious as to the continued existence of the International Labour Organisation as an entity, though this is not made clear. It is suggested, however, that the whole of the positive functions of the Economic and Social Council of the Dumbarton Oaks plan for constructing peace, as distinct from preventing war, should be discharged by bodies corresponding to those set up in 1918—an assembly, or conference, a council or governing body, and a secretariat or office, with committees to provide technical advice as required. The council would include representatives of the workers as well as governments and would take the place of the governing body of the International Labour Organisation. Its functions would include determining the agenda of the assembly, which itself would not be limited to government representatives. The secretariat would be divided into departments dealing, for example, with conditions of labour, with economic problems, with health and housing, with dependent territories and so forth, but with close inter-departmental relations. This plan would telescope the constructive functions of the old League of Nations secretariat and those of the International Labour Office, while employers or managers would find their place along with other professional men in the special committees created to advise on technical and practical issues. Although the Dumbarton Oaks plan is now, of course, submerged in the United Nations Charter, this pamphlet provides useful material for careful consideration.

### Religion and Science

THE conventional "conflict between religion and science" has concerned itself with questions which are not of themselves fundamental, and which are consequently incapable, as they stand, of any solution, as their perpetual recurrence indicates. The truth is, in Prof. H. Dingle's view, "that most of us have two different, and largely incompatible, attitudes towards what is essentially a homogeneous body of experience, and that we are, in the main, unconscious of this" ("Science and Religion." Modern Pamphlets on Religion, Life and Thought, No. 5. Union of Modern Free Churchmen, 92 Blake Road, London, N.11. 6d.). Both scientific and religious interpretations, in spite of their divergence from one another, are "attempts to interpret experience in rational terms". Their difference lies in their being concerned, in the main, with different kinds of experience, so that the interpretations which in either case seem most suitable are different. The scientific descriptions of the world are most appropriate for the particular limited fields of experience with which the respective sciences deal. The religious descriptions are those most appropriate for the different but also limited fields of experience with which religions deal. As knowledge grows, it may be expected that the two descriptions "will develop and ultimately coalesce into a single description capable of expressing all experience"; though we need not expect this ultimate description "to be identical with, or even greatly to resemble, any of the descriptions we can at present give"; and we shall therefore regard without concern any incompatibility between religious and scientific thought to-day. For we must recognize that the time has not yet come when we can construct a single comprehensive world-picture that will interpret all experience. We must be content with partial

pictures, each limited to the experiences which provide its justification.

### The Night Sky in September

NEW moon occurs on Sept. 6d. 13h. 43m. U.T. and full moon on Sept. 21d. 20h. 46m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Sept. 2d. 11h., Saturn  $1^{\circ}$  S.; Sept. 3d. 11h., Venus  $3^{\circ}$  S.; Sept. 4d. 22h., Mercury  $4^{\circ}$  S.; Sept. 8d. 00h., Jupiter  $4^{\circ}$  S.; Sept. 29d. 00h., Mars  $0.2^{\circ}$  S.; Sept. 29d. 20h., Saturn  $2^{\circ}$  S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions take place: Sept. 9d. 12h., Mercury in conjunction with Regulus, Mercury  $0.3^{\circ}$  N.; Sept. 23d. 19h., Venus in conjunction with Regulus, Venus  $0.4^{\circ}$  N. Occultation of  $\mu$  Gem (*D*), takes place on Sept. 1d. 3h. 39.2m., and of 147 B Aries (*R*) on Sept. 25d. 3h. 10.4m. On Sept. 29 there is a grazing occultation of 44 Gem. Mercury can be seen in the morning hours, rising at 3h. 51m., 4h. 13m. and 5h. 47m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. The planet is at its greatest westerly elongation on Sept. 6. Venus can be seen in the morning hours, rising at 1h. 51m., 2h. 28m. and 3h. 07m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. Mars rises at 22h. 42m. on Sept. 1 and at 22h. 10m. on Sept. 30. Jupiter is unfavourably placed for observation. Saturn rises at 0h. 52m. at the beginning and at 23h. 12m. at the end of the month. Autumn equinox commences on Sept. 23d. 10h.

### Announcements

A CONFERENCE on "Friedel-Crafts Catalysts and Polymerization" has been arranged at the Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester, to be held on September 15. Those taking part include Prof. M. Polanyi (Manchester), Dr. P. H. Sykes (I.C.I. Billingham), Prof. H. W. Melville (Aberdeen) and Prof. M. G. Evans (Leeds). Notification of attendance should reach Prof. Polanyi by September 1.

THE annual conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux will be held at the Portland Hall, London, W.C.1, during September 15-16. The opening address will be delivered by Prof. J. D. Bernal, who will speak on the information service as an essential factor in the progress of science; there will also be a symposium on "Links with the U.S.A." and a discussion on the effects on education, research and cultural relations of the shortage of books. Application forms can be obtained from the office of the Association, 52 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

THE National Institute of Agricultural Engineering intends to recommence publication of the *Agricultural Engineering Record*, as a quarterly journal dealing with developments in the mechanization of agriculture. Publication was begun in 1940, but ceased after the first number because of war-time difficulties. The *Record* will contain accounts of the research and development work carried out at the Institute; and it is hoped that other workers in this field will also contribute to its pages. A new feature will be the inclusion of summaries of test reports issued by the Institute, when these have a general interest. The first number will appear in September, and thereafter on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 each year (1s. per copy, or 4s. 4d. per year, post paid; subscriptions to the Secretary, National Institution of Agricultural Engineering, Askham Bryan, York; or to H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, W.C.2).