

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists Organize to Aid International Activities

IN THESE days when international cooperation so often consists of one group of nations waging economic or military war against another group, it is refreshing to learn that scientists of various nations are strengthening their mutual bonds.

Latest move in this direction is the agreement that has been made, after some years of negotiation, between the International Council of Scientific Unions and the Organization Internationale de Co-operation Intellectuelle, which is a part of the League of Nations. Prof. Ch. Fabry of France and Sir Gilbert Murray of Great Britain signed the agreement on behalf of these two organizations.

Scientists who work in different countries and talk different languages often have at international congresses and meetings their only opportunity to meet each other and discuss their similar researches. Congresses and unions in the various branches of science which meet internationally every three or four years are a useful mechanism for keeping

science cosmopolitan. It is the function of the International Council of Scientific Unions to coordinate these activities.

The League of Nations through its intellectual cooperation activities, consisting of an international committee and an institute at Paris, deals with the more political aspects of scientific questions.

For instance, at this year's meeting of the International Council of Scientific Unions there was a proposal from the Royal Amsterdam Academy of Sciences for a continuing inquiry into the relation of science to the life of the community. The International Council decided to handle the more scientific aspects of this broad and important problem and referred other and perhaps more troublesome phases to the League's committee.

It will take time to get international action on such broad matters in these days and the most good will come from the discussions and controversies that will arise, not the resolutions that may be passed worded in formal language.

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mittee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars, the Rockefeller Foundation, universities and other agencies have spent about a million dollars in successfully meshing German exiles into our intellectual fabric.

Spain's international conflict and clash of ideologies has had its intellectual casualties. Some of the exiled professors are looking toward America.

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Decay of German Science Foreseen by Anthropologist

IF THE present situation in Germany continues for any length of time, the probability is that German science will decay. This is the rather sorrowful conclusion expressed by Dr. Franz Boas of Columbia University.

What has happened in Germany is important to the world at large because there is being destroyed a type of culture that had great and beneficial influence upon the course of science and research outside of Germany.

Dr. Boas observes that the aim of German education in the nineteenth century was to lead to intellectual freedom.

Now any clash of opinion which is "the very soul of intellectual life" has been crushed with Nazi control of schools, universities, scientific societies, and other institutions.

When the Nazi-trained younger generation displaces the scientists trained under the Empire and Republic, Dr. Boas expects that "the light that shone forth from school and university, from laboratory and quiet study will be dimmed and infinite labor and time will be needed to reestablish what has been lost."

Practical exploitation of physics and chemistry demanded by the exigencies of the economic situation may continue. But Dr. Boas feels that the present tendency is to look too much at immediate practical results and to disregard the importance of the advance of fundamental theory on which the greatness of German industry was founded.

Giving expert testimony on the idea of a "chosen race," Dr. Boas charges that the modern development of genetics and lack of clear thinking have led biologists and anthropologists to a hopeless confusion between characteristics that are racially determined and those formed by social environment. The innumerable books written on mental characteristics of races have "not a whit of scientific basis."

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EDUCATION

Intellectual Emigres Join American University Life

FOUR great political revolutions in as many countries, Russia, Italy, Germany and Spain, have taken place since the World War. They have had profound effects upon the intellectual life in the countries directly concerned and the rest of the world.

One of the first classes to suffer the effects of such a revolution is the university professor. Dr. Stephen Duggan, director of the Institute of International Education, has been the leader in rescuing those professors who fled from the turmoil, the restraints and freedom's death in the revolutions.

Most devastating of the revolutions was the Russian, in Dr. Duggan's opinion. It was economic as well as political. Hundreds of liberal professors who had fought the autocracy of the Czar fled to other lands because they could not live under a dictatorship of the

proletariat. Many of them able to speak no language but Russian, they found difficulty starting intellectual life anew. American aid was organized by Dr. Duggan's institution and a hand was extended to many emigre scholars, both professors and students alike, with gratifying results. In the years since some of them have risen to important places in American life.

Mussolini's Fascist revolution of 1922 was mild and primarily political as compared with the Russian. Practically no scholars and students fled to the United States.

The Nazi revolution was far more severe. The Jew was made the scapegoat and practically every Jew and "non-Aryan" was ousted from university positions. Hundreds of exiles went to other lands in the midst of a world depression. In America the Emergency Com-