

However, Fawcett possessed such a superabundance of energy that his anatomical labours, considerable as they were, by no means exhausted it. In 1919 he founded the Bristol Spelæological Society, and held office as president from its foundation until 1936. He published numerous reports on human skeletal remains submitted to him for examination, and indeed at the time of his death two such reports were awaiting publication, one dealing with remains associated with a beaker at Corston, Somerset, the other with some human bones from a Roman stone coffin exposed during the recent air-raids on Bath.

During his latter years, Prof. Fawcett was engaged in work of an archaeological nature, in which he took great delight. As in his anatomical, so in his archaeological work, he was influenced by two factors, the consideration of form and of development. He made a study of the ancient chairs to be found in Bristol and the surrounding counties, and arranged them according to their structural evolution. The same principles made him an accurate student of medieval architecture, for he made detailed observation of mouldings and other architectural features, and so was able to fix the date of a building or part of a building with authority.

He made complete lists of the achievements of royal arms in churches in the counties of Somerset, Gloucester and Wiltshire, and the City of Bristol, and he knew the arms of every family living within thirty miles of Bristol. His eye for detail led him to be the first person to record the anthropophagous figures which appear, often at a great height from the ground, on the external fabric of some churches.

Prof. Fawcett leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter.
J. M. YOFFEY.

Dr. Leonard Klatzow

THE death of Dr. Leonard Klatzow occurred on September 22 at the age of thirty-five. Dr. Klatzow was educated in South Africa, and came to England in 1930 as a Rhodes Scholar, obtaining his D.Phil. after three years' research work at the Electrical Laboratories, Oxford, during which he published several valuable papers in collaboration.

In 1934 Klatzow entered the research laboratories of Electrical and Musical Industries, Ltd., at a time when experimental development of high-definition television was beginning. The successful establish-

ment of the London Television Station owed a considerable part to the improvements arising out of his work on photo-electric surfaces and allied subjects; among his colleagues he acquired an enviable reputation as a master of this difficult and delicate art. He maintained, as is not always easy in an industrial laboratory, a close contact with pure science, and was always quick to see the value of academic discoveries for the solving of practical problems. His work, largely unpublished, did not receive the wide recognition it deserved, but there is no doubt that a career of increasing distinction was opening before him.

His lively and generous personality made him a particularly agreeable colleague, at once stimulating and sympathetic, and led him to take a keen interest in the welfare of those around him, especially of the junior staff under his care. The shock of his loss was keenly felt when, at the end of a period of especially intense work, he died suddenly, of a long-standing but unsuspected heart weakness, literally at his post of duty.
B. M. CROWTHER.

THE secretary of the Association of Scientific Workers writes:

The name of Dr. Leonard Klatzow will always be associated, by a large circle of friends and fellow-workers, with the renaissance of the Association of Scientific Workers in recent years. He joined the Association in 1936, at the end of a public meeting held in the Imperial College of Science on "Defence and the Responsibility of the Scientist", and immediately threw himself wholeheartedly into its work. Nobody who met him failed to be infected by his enthusiasm for the Association and the ideas it stood for, which gave full scope for his sense of responsibility to his fellow scientific men and to the community as a whole. His lively imagination, methodical mind and personal charm admirably fitted him for this work, and within a few months he was elected to the executive committee and appointed honorary treasurer, a post which he held for more than three years. In two major enterprises at least he played a leading part, namely, the setting up of the Scientific Films Committee, and, later, of the London Scientific Films Society; and the complicated negotiations which led to the establishment of the Unemployment Benefit Fund for scientific workers.

NEWS and VIEWS

Soviet Scientific Work on Potatoes

A LONG cable has been sent by Prof. Lysenko, president of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, to Sir John Russell, chairman of the Anglo-Soviet Scientific Collaboration Committee, describing recent results of Soviet scientific work on the potato crop which in the U.S.S.R., as in Great Britain, is now of very great importance as human food. The message begins by stating that the Odessa Institute of Genetics and Selection, of which he was for a long time director and where much of this work was begun, had been evacuated before the Germans captured the city. The investigations now being made under Lysenko's general direction by various scientific bodies, like all other scientific investigations in the U.S.S.R., are exclusively directed to the war effort;

in this case to help the Collective and State farms increase the output of food and raw materials. Genetics, he says, is the science dealing with the nature of the living organism and its reactions to various environmental influences at different stages of its development. The better the laws of inheritance are understood, the easier it is to govern the nature of the plant organism and modify it in any desirable direction, thereby creating new plants possessing characters useful to man.

War conditions have made it necessary greatly to increase the area under potatoes in the U.S.S.R. because they furnish more food and industrial raw material per acre than any other crop. The difficulty arose, however, that supplies of 'seed' were insufficient to allow of much expansion. The

shortage was overcome by using potato tops in place of seed, and methods for their preparation and planting were elaborated. In 1942 a total of 150,000 *ha* were thus planted in various parts of the south-east and centre of the U.S.S.R. and the yields were not inferior to those of potatoes planted in the usual way, and in regions where ring rot is prevalent plants grown from tops were less liable to the disease than those grown from seed. During the winter, extensive preparations are being made to collect potato seed material from Government and public vegetable stores and from private houses to ensure considerable enlargement of next year's potato area, and meanwhile the scientific workers are continuing work on collection of the tops and on their storage and preparation for planting. A request has been sent to Lysenko for details of the methods adopted.

Another method of increasing production in the southern regions, based on Lysenko's own work, is to arrange for two sowings of potatoes in one season. The old method was to sow in April, but the high June temperature led to poor crops of small tubers. The difficulty was overcome by planting in July; the crop is not large but as seed it is much better than the original seed, and, planted in the following April, it gives considerably higher yields. Seed for the July planting, however, cannot in the hot southern regions be kept over from the previous year; on the other hand, the freshly gathered seed does not readily sprout; a period of rest is necessary. Investigation showed that the length of this period depends on external conditions, particularly on the extent to which air can gain access to the plant nutrients contained in the tuber. Access of air is prevented by the skin, and when this is removed sprouting rapidly occurs. The technical problems associated with the large-scale application of this simple device have been worked out, and during the summer of 1942 experiments were made on collective farms and individual plots in irrigated areas of Central Asia, the results of which will enable the potato area of the southern regions to be greatly expanded in 1943. In conclusion, Prof. Lysenko stated that the problem now confronting us is to make the utmost use of our knowledge of the laws governing the development of plants so as to obtain the largest possible yields of the best quality crops from our fields.

Reconstruction Research

THE third number of *Agenda* (London: Oxford University Press. 6s. quarterly) is notable for the valuable article on "Reconstruction Research conducted in Britain by the European Allies", by Ethel J. Lindgren. This article contains almost the first full account of the origin and character of the London International Assembly established as a result of the initiative of the League of Nations Union in the summer of 1941, for purposes of study, discussion and a free exchange of views as private individuals and not as representatives of Governments or parties. Of the five commissions established in November 1941, only the first is concerned with a war-time problem, namely, political warfare. The second deals with the trial of war criminals and to the third was relegated future international organization and security against war, and to the fourth social and economic reconstruction. By the end of January 1942, four sub-commissions had been appointed, dealing with collective security, international organization, economic and financial problems and labour

and social questions. The fifth is a joint commission of the London International Assembly and the Council for Education in World Citizenship on the place of education, religion and science and learning in post-war reconstruction. The last to be set up, its membership is large and keen.

No section of the London International Assembly constitutes purely or mainly a research organization, but it provides allied research workers, statesmen and responsible persons interested in international affairs with a focus and a forum where the fruits of research and trends of thought and policy can be brought together. The need for documentation and information is supplied to some extent through facilities afforded by the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, and a liaison officer maintains contact between the work of the two organizations. The Allies can, moreover, draw on research carried out by their Governments and on a number of other institutions which are described. These include the Allied Post-War Requirements Bureau, the scope of which was indicated at the Inter-allied Government meeting at St. James's Palace in September 1941, and groups like the New Europe Circle, the membership of which is drawn from about nine European countries, including Civil servants, business men, engineers, students and journalists.

Brief reference is also made to the work of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the Nuffield College Social Reconstruction Survey and to various branches of the work of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The paper includes accounts of various allied institutions such as the Belgian Commission for the Study of Post-War Problems, the Czechoslovak Research Institute, Fighting French Service d'Études de Documentation et de Liaisons, the Statistical Research Section of the Greek Ministry of Finance, official research under the Ministry of Justice, Luxembourg, the Study Group for Reconstruction Problems of the Netherlands, the Polish Research Centre, the Yugoslav Post-War Reconstruction Committee and research carried out by a number of Norwegian ministries, the co-ordination of which is now being discussed. The same number contains a review of research concerning some post-war domestic problems of the United States, which gives an account of the activities of the National Resources Planning Board. Seven fields of exploration as elements of a post-war programme have been suggested by the Board, covering demobilization, public works, industry, expansion of Service activities, security, finance and international activities.

Post-War Planning in the United States

A PAMPHLET on post-war planning entitled "After the War—Full Employment", by A. H. Hansen, which has been issued by the National Resources Planning Board, suggests that the American Government is making systematic attempts to prepare its people for post-war problems. It is also of interest as indicating the present outlook in the United States on post-war problems. While stress is laid upon the importance of retaining freedom of enterprise, freedom for collective bargaining and for co-operative action, as well as of choice of occupation, the importance of planning for full employment and to prevent a post-war depression is recognized. A shift towards a higher consumption economy is visualized. Points in a Government programme for this purpose