

## Future Work

THE future work of the World Federation is conditioned by the strength of its organisational machinery. Many activities and projects have been proposed, and are being undertaken as swiftly as circumstances allow.

*Relations with Other Bodies* are of primary importance. Many of the Federation's constituent associations conduct much of their research on the national scale with the collaboration of other bodies, and have, therefore, concluded agreements with them of varying degrees of formality. Similarly, in the international field, the World Federation will find that collaboration with other organizations will be helpful, and will probably be most fruitful when governed by an agreement, which covers mutual recognition, consultation, exchange of information and support, and defines the fields of collaboration.

The Executive Council has initiated discussions for the conclusion of agreements with two international bodies. One is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); an organ of the United Nations which has considerable executive powers in fields which concern the World Federation. The other is the World Federation of Trade Unions, which speaks for the basic interests of a large number of the ordinary men and women of the world, whose lot we so anxiously desire to be improved by the application of science.

Notes on the fundamental subject of *Secrecy in Science* have been drawn up for discussion, and are being circulated to the affiliated associations for comments in the light of their own experience. At the same time these associations will be asked to present evidence about the restrictions which are placed on the publication of scientific information, and the evils which arise as a result. From the material so obtained it will be possible to synthesize a general picture of how the advance of science, and the elevation of human standards of living, is hindered by the restrictions under which scientists labour. The elaboration of a realistic policy, taking into account the actual state of the world at the present time, will require very careful thought.

A *Charter for Scientists*, defining their rights and duties, is to be prepared. The standards of education, remuneration, working conditions and opportunities for work vary very widely over the surface of the globe. In India, for instance, a science graduate is fortunate if he finds scientific employment, and when he does so, it is nearly always very badly paid. In a number of other countries the position is better, but there are very few where it may be regarded as satisfactory. With regard to duties, for example, scientists have special knowledge on scientific matters. It is, therefore, one of their duties and responsibilities to see that the public is correctly informed on scientific matters which affect public affairs. A statement of the basic rights and duties of the scientist, drawn sufficiently widely to be applicable in all countries, will enable him to make his best contribution to the welfare of the community, and would be of great assistance in his struggle for improved economic and social status.

*The World Food Situation.* There is no doubt that, for a very large fraction (probably more than a half) of the world's population "raising the standard of living" means, at present, nothing more nor less than raising the diet of the people, both in quantity and quality, from

starvation level. The position at the moment is extremely bad, due to crop failures and the ravages of war, but peace-time levels of nutrition were nothing to be proud of, and to a certain extent the present serious situation is a result of narrow-minded agricultural policies pursued by governments, and primitive cultivation methods used by primary producers, in the years before the war. The problem has both its technical and political aspects—concerned respectively with production and distribution. As a first step towards action by the World Federation on this question, a statement prepared by the British Association of Scientific Workers is being circulated for comments by the constituent bodies. As there are several of these in both the grain exporting areas, such as Canada, Australia, and U.S.A., and in the zones of serious food deficiency, such as China, India, and some parts of Europe, their replies should be extremely informative.

Notes on various aspects of the technical and sociological problems connected with the utilisation of *Atomic Energy* are being prepared. They will be issued as advice to the various national associations.

One of the aims of the Federation is to stimulate socially conscious scientists to organize themselves in countries where they are at present unorganized, or organized in a way (e.g. in separate unions of a vertical trade union structure) that prevents their affiliation to the Federation.

One of the most effective ways of doing this would be through personal contact by prominent members of the Federation. This could take the form of *Lecture Tours* on the social responsibilities of scientists and the social relations of science.

*Exchange of information amongst component organizations* is an important function which the Federation alone can discharge. It is one which will be undertaken as soon as permanent staff is available. The number of organizations, and the volume of their publications, is now so large, that it cannot be done adequately by voluntary work.

The Federation will require a *Journal*. This must await the appointment of staff. At present a bulletin is being issued to keep the constituent associations and others interested in the Federation informed of events.

The Social Relations of Science is a subject which, like other branches of science, deserves and most emphatically needs a regular publication in which original thought in this field can appear. To some extent the national publications of the various Associations of Scientific Workers fulfill this need, but the subject is international in scale and requires a journal of international standing. This is the lacuna which the journal of the Federation will aspire to fill.

## Offices, Staff and Finance

THE location of the Federation's *Head Office* is not specified in the constitution. It has, however, been registered in Paris, owing to the presence there of the headquarters of several world organizations with related objects. The British Association of Scientific Workers has also kindly given the World Federation hospitality in its premises at 15 Half Moon Street, London. Their General Secretary, Mr. Roy Innes, acted in an honorary capacity as Secretary-General of the World Federation from July, 1946, until February, 1947. Mr. Innes, in addition to his normal heavy duties for his own Association, did a great deal of the initial work in launching the World Federation, and the Federation's debt to him will always be remembered.

One of the two Honorary Secretaries of the World Federation, Dr. P. Bonet-Maury, is situated in Paris. Those correspondents who find it more convenient to communicate with the Federation through Paris and in French, can in the first place write to him at l'Institut du Radium, 11 Rue Pierre Curie, Paris V<sup>e</sup>. (Tel. ODEON 14-69)

Mr. J. G. Crowther is the Secretary-General designate, and is supervising the Federation's work from London until it is possible for him to transfer to Paris. This depends on the receipt of sufficient financial and material aid. The minimum income on which the Head Office can begin to function adequately in Paris is £2,500 per annum. This cannot be expected immediately from the subscriptions of affiliated associations, based on 1½ per cent. of their members' fees. Special funds and donations are, therefore, urgently required from interested members and bodies.