What does climate have to do with the vitamin or mineral content or other nutritional factors in the case of such farm products as vegetables, fruits and grains? What variations are due to differences in soil? What effects do soil amendments, such as fertilizers, have? What are the effects of other agronomic practices besides the use of fertilizers? Do different varieties of the same plant vary significantly in nutritional quality? If so, to what are the differences due—and would it not be possible to breed plants with superior nutritional value?

We have hardly more than begun this work, but so far I think we can say definitely that it will be possible to breed some plants at least that will have uniformly superior nutritional quality so far as their content of vitamins and minerals is concerned. That is not the point here, however. The point is that this project necessarily involves simultaneous work by scientists in many fields. We have brought into the picture outstanding experts in human and animal nutrition, in soils, in plant breeding, in plant physiology, in home economics and in public health problems. Each has vital contributions to make on different aspects of the whole project. As a result, I believe that we shall avoid the common danger of going too far in one direction while missing something of great importance in some other direction. The whole project, to my mind, is an excellent example of cooperative research focused on a common objective that not only has great scientific interest but should make a real contribution to human welfare through better nutrition.

We Need Social Awareness

The final point, which I wish to emphasize again, is the need for research workers to be very much aware of the relation of their work to the problems of human welfare.

We have perhaps taken this too much for granted. Science has accomplished so much in the modern world —its achievements are so evident all around us in the form of new products and new modes of communication, transportation, manufacturing, and so on—that we assume that of course it contributes to human welfare.

Yet we have been faced by the stark facts of poverty and unemployment in the midst of plenty—ignorance in an age of enlightenment—and finally, total war, meaning total destruction, in an age supposed to be dominated by science, which is essentially a builder and not a destroyer.

Can we, as scientists, look at the world to-day and say we have done all we could to make our work contribute to human welfare? Have we not been rather naive in assuming that our job was to do the particular piece of research in front of us, irrespective of how the results were used?

A discussion of these questions would take me very far afield. I am raising them simply to suggest that it is part of our business as agricultural scientists to try to understand and as far as possible anticipate human needs—social and economic needs—in our work. To take an immediately pressing example—what is the world going to be like after this war? How can the enormous productiveness of science be put to work to make it a better world to live in than the one before the war? How can we direct our work as scientists to prevent wars and to create peace, plenty and opportunity for far more of the world's people? Those are the kinds of problems we must face in our thinking and planning. There is no question but that the viewpoint and method of science can be a powerful factor in solving them.

The agricultural research institutions of the Americas constitute, in the aggregate, a very large body of scientific facilities and skilled personnel. Our big job in the years immediately ahead is to use our combined power and vision for the welfare of humanity—and when I say our, I mean those of us who work in the natural sciences as well as the economists. If we make this the unswerving intent and purpose behind our work as agricultural scientists, I am sure we shall find the means to contribute a great deal to a brighter future for mankind.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RECENT DEATHS

DR. HECTOR RUSSELL CARVETH, electrochemist of Niagara Falls, N. Y., died on September 7 of injuries sustained as the result of the explosion of a cement tank. He was sixty-nine years old.

DR. JOHN ARTHUR WILSON, consulting chemist, New York City, president of John Arthur Wilson, Inc., died on September 17, at the age of fifty-two years.

DANIEL A. LEHMAN, professor emeritus of mathematics and astronomy of Goshen College, died on September 8, at the age of eighty-two years. He had been a professor at the college since 1906.

SIR JOHN MACPHERSON, emeritus professor of psychiatry in the University of Sydney, died in England on August 14 in his eighty-fourth year.

Nature reports the death at the age of seventy-three years of Dr. Kurt Brandenburg, professor of special

pathology and therapy at the University of Berlin, editor of the *Medizinische Klinik;* and of Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C., the well-known ornithologist, chairman of the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who died on August 23, at the age of eighty-five years.

THE AID OF SCIENCE IN PRODUCTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

IN order to ensure that the fullest use is made of scientific and technical resources in the field of production, the British Minister of Production, according to *The Times,* London, has appointed W. A. Stanier, chief mechanical engineer to the London Midland and Scottish Railway; Dr. T. R. Merton, treasurer of the Royal Society, and Dr. I. M. Heilbron, professor of organic chemistry, Imperial College of Science and Technology, to his staff in the capacity of full-time scientific advisers. The official statement reads:

> The field of activity of these advisers will be co-extensive with the responsibility of the Minister of Production. They will keep in close touch with the scientific advisers of the Service and Supply Departments, and will be available to assist the departmental organizations of scientific research and technical development. They will not supersede the departmental organizations, which will, for instance, continue to be responsible for the examination of new inventions and technical suggestions in their own fields.
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> They will be responsible to the Minister of Production, but will work under the immediate supervision of the Lord Privy Seal, acting on his behalf.
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> These appointments have been made with a view to completing the existing organization for scientific research and development which has been carefully built up over a number of years and operated with outstanding efficiency.
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> The Government has reviewed the whole position in the light of recent representations, and has decided that the creation of the post of Minister of Production affords the opportunity for this further measure of coordination which the Government believes will be to the national advantage.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

ACCORDING to *The Times,* London, the secretary of the Zoological Society of London, Dr. Julian S. Huxley, has written to H. G. Maurice, vice-president and chairman of the council, resigning the secretaryship of the society and membership of the council. His letter is as follows: "I am writing to ask you to transmit to council my resignation as secretary to the society and member of council. I am sorry to have to do this, but as I had associated myself with the informal committee, and as the fellows have now voted against their nominees, I feel that no other course is open to me. Apart from this, I regret that there no longer exists that measure of mutual confidence and general agreement between myself and council which would warrant my continuing to hold the post of secretary. I am, of course, taking steps to find alternative accommodation, and shall vacate the official flat as soon as I have done so. In view of the misapprehensions which still exist concerning my own position, I am sending a copy of this letter to the press."

Dr. Huxley's resignation was received by the council of the society at their meeting on August 26, and at the meeting of fellows which followed, Mr. Maurice expressed his regret that "a man of such brilliant parts as Dr. Huxley should be of such restless genius as not really to fit in with the routine drudgery of an institution of this character." The council's personal relations with Dr. Huxley had always been very friendly.

Mr. Maurice announced that a resolution handed in at the annual general meeting advocating the establishment of a committee of council members and fellows to inquire into the administration of the society had been accepted by the council. This committee would investigate the suggestion that the society's original charter, in existence since 1829, was in need of reform. Members of the committee would be appointed at the next council meeting in a month's time.

MEDICAL AID TO CHINA

HELEN KENNEDY STEVENS, the executive director of the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, writes to SCIENCE as follows:

> Apropos of Egbert H. Walker's suggestion in the July 17 issue that American scientists should save scientific publications for the future use of Chinese scientists whose own libraries have been destroyed, may I inform your readers that the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, one of the participating agencies of United China Relief, for some time has been collecting text-books and journals for shipment to the Emergency Medical Service Training Schools in China and other institutions desperately in need of such literature. American physicians and institutions have been most generous in donating texts and journals which those in charge of Chinese schools and hospitals have asked us to obtain.
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> Unfortunately, now that the port of Rangoon and the Burma Road have been cut off, and there are such heavy demands upon the transport routes from India, it is inadvisable for us to continue to send books, but we are sending texts and charts on micro-film, which go by air mail and may reach China less than a month after their publication here. The film texts have the added advantage that, once arrived in China, they can be passed around from school to school.
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> That the Chinese have made good use of this oppor-