

fibres leading to the thalamus, followed by careful re-education of the patient. No intellectual change can be detected, but the operation is a serious procedure.

### **THE LINEN FLAX INDUSTRY IN NEW ZEALAND.**

July 26: Address by Mr. F. R. CALLAGHAN, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Although linen flax had been grown in New Zealand by early settlers, it had never grown into an industry. In 1935 it was re-introduced, and by 1939 a great deal of experimental work had been done, so that in 1940 when requested to do so by England New Zealand was able to undertake the sowing of 600 tons of seed. Sites for ten factories were selected and farmers given contracts to grow the seed. The first factory opened in May, 1940, in Blenheim, and at the present time 14 factories are in operation. By means of lantern slides the speaker explained the structure of the linen flax plant, its utilisation and methods of extraction. After the extraction of the fibre all waste matter is utilised and made into by-products—fluff from the tow is made into lin-wool, loose straw from the de-seeder is made into lin-pack for packing, while the seed is made into linseed oil and stock feed. Chive material is used to fire the boilers in the factories. At the conclusion of the address a 16 mm. film showing the linen flax industry and made by the manager of the Railway Workshops was screened.

### **SCIENCE IN POST-WAR YEARS.**

August 23: Address by Dr. E. MARSDEN, Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Dr. Marsden said he thought that this subject, which impressed him very much during his recent visit overseas, must be worrying a great many people at the present time. He was convinced that the success of Russia was due to the freedom of science to come up from below instead of being regimented from above. British science was more free than German and this undoubtedly had saved the situation for us during this war. In post-war development New Zealand must ensure that all scientific activities are in harmony. Frustration of science in the Services had, before the war, brought about a stagnation and this state of affairs must not be allowed to develop again. The British people, he thought, though leading well in scientific achievement had lagged seriously in the application of research to practical needs. The war had broken down the cloistering effect built up by the patent laws and great firms like I.C.I. were now undertaking fundamental research. There is a wonderful freedom amongst research workers in such firms now that did not exist before the war. Coal in future will be the basis for the production of the more expensive chemicals; and the manufacture of medical drugs was now on a highly scientific basis. One finds in these great firms scientists the equal of whom cannot be found in the Universities. Patent law was bound to intrude largely into the application of post war research. In the biological field science was on the threshold of great advances