

# TRAINING SOCIETY TO THINK

## *The Function of Universities After The War*

**L**IFE has its dangers and discomforts in war-time London, but it also has its compensations. One of them is that we have the chance to get to know our guests and Allies, the soldiers of so many nations. I've been fortunate in making several good friends among the Americans. There are three in particular whom I met at a concert. We discovered that we had the same tastes in music, and before very long our house became their home. Just now we're discussing what they'll do when they're demobilised. Should they go home to the States or should they stay and continue their studies in Europe — perhaps in England, perhaps in France, or best of all in both? I've been learning with envy what an enlightened policy the government of the United States is adopting to further the education of its soldiers. There as elsewhere the call to service dragged many a student away from his university or technical college before his studies were finished. These young men are to be compensated after the war under a scheme that promises two years' free education to everyone whose studies

*From a talk by DR. H. N. BRAILSFORD in the "World Perspective" series of the BBC*

were interrupted. There will be a grant which should cover fees comfortably and a monthly allowance that will suffice with economy to meet the cost of living.

### Australian And New Zealand Schemes

This then set me asking the wider question. What will be the future of the world's universities after the war? The prospects in Australia and New Zealand compare very well with what Americans are planning. In both Dominions a man when he is demobilised may complete his education free at any government school or college—anything from a university to an experimental farm. In New Zealand full-time students may claim an income up to five guineas a week. The Australian scheme is on very similar lines. It takes into account in assigning men to various types of training the demand for new recruits that's likely to

prevail in the various crafts and professions. It includes a kindly provision for the widows of deceased servicemen. They too will be eligible for training and education.

That's the happier side of this service. It has in some countries a grimmer aspect. In some of the lands they conquered the Germans deliberately aimed at destroying education. That is especially so in Poland. Education was a luxury to which this "sub-human race" had no right. The guiding principle in the long reign of terror was as far as possible to blot out everyone possible of leadership; the intellectuals, teachers and professional men. In Kharkov University a big proportion of the professors were murdered by the Gestapo. After that we learn without surprise that university libraries were looted or, as at Naples, deliberately set on fire. With a little

*(continued on next page)*



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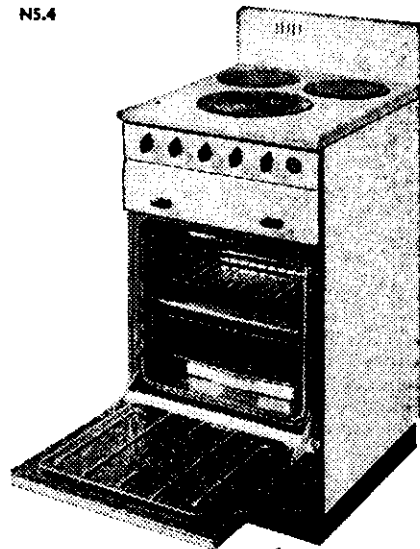
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