

## OBITUARY

We regret to announce that we have been informed of the deaths of Professors Jean Aujame and Marij Pregelj, who represented France and Yugoslavia respectively at the First Conference, and that the United Kingdom artist Albert Berbank has also died recently, after a lifetime of service to his brother artists. Professor Aujame's contribution to this Conference left a deep impression on all who heard him speak. We think that the last words of this Report should be left to him.

## APPENDIX 14

### FRANCE

I should like to put the discussion on a proper footing, but I must let it be known that I have come here above all to learn. As a "Maître d'Atelier" at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, I feel I have heavy responsibilities and I have good reason to ask myself what exactly is the part I should play with my pupils.

It is quite obvious indeed that a great artist has no inevitable need of a teacher and many important artists have never been pupils of an art school.

It is nevertheless true that many others need us. So it is not a question of making artists but rather of helping those who do come to us to discover themselves.

Then again, art school studios have advantages and disadvantages. It is very difficult to stop the young artists in a school from influencing one another, and this is perhaps even more dangerous than the influence of the teacher himself.

I should like to point out that in France the art technical schools and the art schools proper are too clearly separated from one another. The pupils of the Ecole des Beaux Arts sometimes come from the technical schools, which is why they are already specialised before they have acquired any general ideas, and this seems contrary to common sense. Then again, art schools in the main lack technical facilities since their budget is much less than that of the specialist schools.

Admission to the Ecole des Beaux Arts is by an easy entrance examination and the average age is around nineteen. On the other hand, before they enter the studios proper, the pupils must undergo a period of initiation which includes examinations in all the subjects taught in the School; this lasts as a rule not more than one year, although it can take several years for the less gifted.

The teachers in the advanced studios are not present all the time and they only step in to give guidance or advice.