

is explained. In the corridor of UNESCO House, the model for UNESCO's permanent headquarters is on display.

On the sixth floor, one may see a series of films entitled "Knowing the World". "Geneological Tree", the Canadian film on the list, shows the origins of the Canadian people and the cultural and social contribution made by each ethnic group. Some others are: "Enfants de Hollande", showing the education, amusements and life of children in the Netherlands; "Antarctica 1948", showing the Australian expedition of the Antarctic, and one describing the main volcanoes of Japan.

Especially interesting is the exhibit showing the work in fundamental education at Patzcuaro, Mexico. Photographs, posters and textbooks for new literates tell the story of the effort being made to bring literacy to a region comprising 20 villages and populated by 10,000 people. Simple readable materials have been prepared on health, agriculture and citizenship. In this area 10 percent are literate; 40 percent are beginning to read, and 50 percent are illiterate. At first, people are suspicious of the specialists and student teachers, but gradually their attitudes change. In pictures made before the work was introduced children appear thin, untidy and miserable. Pictures made afterwards show clean and tidy children neatly dressed. Older girls learn how to make clothing. Sports and games are introduced. Tractors are being used instead of oxen. What an effect a world network of fundamental education centres would have on the millions who need them!

Personal Contacts

Not the least important among the many activities of the Conference are the human contacts. Bridges are built each time friends arrive at mutual understanding. Among the outstanding personalities present is Senator G. Pecson of the Philippines, who champions the cause of fundamental education and the education of women in Asiatic countries. When she returns to Manila, she will have circled the globe by plane on her trip to this assembly. The charming young Princess Souvanna Phouma heads a delegation of three representatives from Laos. Mr. J. King Gordon, well known in his home city, Winnipeg, and in other parts of Canada, is here as United Nations representative from New York. Dr. Francisco Villagran, delegate from Mexico, is trilingual, and says he considers himself part Canadian, as he spent two and a half years in Montreal a short time ago.

There are, of course, many distinguished and able figures here whom I do not know personally but have seen in action. H. E. Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, with his warm smile and wise words, won the confidence of the assembly completely. This scholarly Indian is the first representative of an Eastern nation to occupy the post of president of the General Conference. Author of several books on Eastern religion and philosophy, he has lectured in America on comparative religion and is Spaulding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics at Oxford.

Professor P. E. Carneiro of Brazil, formerly chairman of the Executive Board, is an eloquent and forceful speaker. He described his great vision of what UNESCO might accomplish in the future as follows: "It is incumbent upon the entire human race to safeguard the future of mankind by heeding the wisdom of the past, and enabling new peoples and new social classes to enter, through the door of science, education and culture, into the universal fraternity of mankind." Mr. René Cassin, of France, of the French Delegation, is a philosopher who looks like Victor Hugo and has something of his fire.

Many problems remain to be considered. Delegates realize that this conference is of no small account in the present state of world affairs. As member states of UNESCO, our countries have a responsibility, a trust to keep and maintain. Each year the importance of that trust increases. No matter how great the difficulties, we shall surmount them. We are not solitary adventurers. We are members of a growing brotherhood and the power to grow is one of the greatest forces in the world.