

prevent those who may desire to do so from obtaining a grounding in, or refreshing their knowledge of, the essential principles of European forestry". It is felt that this is not sufficient and that something more positive is required. It was because of the fear that the value of a sound training in European forestry as an equipment for tackling the special forestry problems of the various parts of the Empire is being minimized, that adverse comment was passed upon the policy of the Institute in this particular.

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

The University of Göttingen

MAY an English university teacher, who is at present enjoying the hospitality of a scientific institute in Göttingen, protest against the article in NATURE of April 24? It is undeniable that the University of Göttingen has suffered serious losses under the Nazi regime, and many features of the present university administration are entirely deplorable. On the other hand, there still remain in Göttingen men of considerable distinction (to mention only four outstanding names: Eucken, physical chemist; Windaus, organic chemist and Nobel prizeman; Prandtl, hydrodynamics; Rein, physiologist), who are continuing in the face of difficulties to maintain a high standard of scientific research and teaching. They are in no way responsible for the present administration; the statement that "Göttingen ceased in 1933 to be a scientific centre" is an unjustified insult and a discouragement which they feel most bitterly. The removal of the Jews from German universities, much as we may deplore it, is now complete and irrevocable. We have already indicated our disapproval with more than sufficient force, and a continuation of the campaign of abuse and boycott serves no conceivable purpose except to irritate the extremists to still further excesses and hurt the feelings of those moderates whose efforts to maintain the standard of academic learning need and deserve all the encouragement we can give.

"Any stick will do to beat a dog with." The anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic literature in circulation here illustrates how pathetically easy it is to make up a plausible case from odd statistics and excerpts, and it is regrettable that English attacks on Germany are beginning to show signs of the same fanaticism and lack of taste. Your anonymous correspondent is perhaps unaware that the speech which he quotes resulted in disciplinary measures being taken by the ministry of Education against Dr. Kahrstedt. The quotation about duelling is scarcely even relevant to the point at issue: an equally distorted view of English academic learning would be gained by a foreigner reading our Press at the time of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. My present colleagues, mostly appointed since 1933, are men of high scientific ability in spite of the "complex apparatus" which apparently should have "prevented them from joining the junior teaching staff", and we do not find ourselves in any way hindered or disturbed in scientific work. Is it too late to make a plea to English universities and periodicals for that dignified tolerance and restraint which we like to regard as a national virtue and which is the only effective counter to political hysteria? Nothing will be gained and much lost by cutting off all contact with an

academic society which, in spite of all that can be justly said against it, is still producing, and will continue to produce, positive scientific work of real value.

J. D. LAMBERT.
(Lecturer of Trinity College, Oxford.)

Physikalisch-chemisches Institut,
Göttingen.
May 10.

MR. LAMBERT points out, what has never been doubted, that there are distinguished men of science at Göttingen who are not responsible for the present administration. It cannot be to their advantage that representatives from English universities should fraternize with precisely those officials who are most closely associated with the features which he tells us that he (and implies that his German friends) most deplore.

The figures quoted in the article on Göttingen are not "odd statistics and excerpts"; they are figures carefully gathered by competent, trained and impartial observers who have spent several months on this particular task. The inquiry shows that the careers of approximately one fifth of the scholars and men of science in Germany have been ruined and the scientific opportunities and intellectual integrity of the remaining four fifths have been gravely injured. It must take generations for the profession of learning in Germany to recover the dignity and esteem which it has lost.

The Minister of Education, Herr Rust, has spoken in terms as extreme as Dr. Kahrstedt, so that the disciplinary measures to which Mr. Lambert refers can be intended only for external consumption. Mr. Lambert should read the address given by Herr Rust at the "jubilee" of the University of Heidelberg last year.

Mr. Lambert and certain of his colleagues "do not find themselves disturbed . . . in scientific work". Others are less fortunate. Dismissals continue, and at Göttingen itself a professor of long service and high standing was dismissed a few days before Mr. Lambert wrote.

Mr. Lambert makes no mention of the choice of June 30 for the celebrations both at Heidelberg and Göttingen, or of the association of that day, in every German mind, with the greatest political massacre of modern times. He does not mention the entire failure of the appearance of any *Göttinger Sieben* to protest against the assaults on learning and liberty. He does not mention that more than a fifth of the staff of the University was dismissed with scarcely a word of protest or sympathy.

The difficulty of recruiting staffs for the German universities is as well known in Germany as in England. A special decree was recently issued by the Ministry of Education, and circulated in a confidential leaflet to university teachers expressly forbidding public discussion of this subject.

Mr. Lambert states that "the quotation about duelling is scarcely even relevant to the point at issue". If duelling be compulsory in the German universities, it must effect the recruitment of the staff in very many ways. To mention one only, it must exclude practising Catholics, to whom duelling is forbidden. Nearly one third of the population of Germany is Catholic.

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.