

News and Views

Queen Mary College Jubilee Celebration

THE tangled tale of the foundation of the colleges of London and of their welding into one of the greatest universities that the Western world has seen is, in its revelation of a complete absence of planning, fascinatingly and characteristically British. None of these colleges has a history more stimulating to the student of social developments than that of Queen Mary College. The College, known until December 12, 1934, as East London College, when Her Majesty Queen Mary presented to the College, through the master of the Draper's Company, a Royal Charter incorporating the College under its new name, finds its origin in a bequest made by Mr. Barber Beaumont, who died in 1841. The eighties of the last century saw the beginning of the generous interest of the Drapers' Company in the movement which resulted in the People's Palace, and on May 14, 1877, Queen Victoria opened the Queen's Hall, and laid the foundation of the Technical School, a School which formed an integral part of the People's Palace. In 1892, Mr. J. L. S. Hatton, to whose almost prophetic insight the metamorphosis of the Technical School is due, was appointed director of that School, and under his wise guidance the work of the School increased so greatly in volume and in importance that in 1907 East London College was recognized as a School of the University of London. The College has indeed been singularly fortunate in its principals. Sir Frederick Maurice, who accepted the office on the death of Principal Hatton in 1933, is steering the College through a difficult period of material expansion marked by a new building scheme, the opening of a high-voltage laboratory and the acquirement of an estate to be developed as a new sports ground.

THE year 1887, which saw the laying of the foundation stone of the Technical School, may be taken as marking the birth of the College, and the College, in holding its Charter week during the week beginning December 12, is also celebrating its jubilee. The outstanding event of the week will be a Congregation on the evening of December 14. The College has now two honorary fellows—Her Majesty Queen Mary and Sir Lynden Macassey—and on the occasion of this Congregation the master of the Drapers' Company, Mr. D'Oyly Monro, and the clerk to the Company, Sir Ernest Pooley, are to be admitted as honorary fellows. The jubilee celebrations mark fifty years of almost unexampled growth, and the College will embark on its journey towards a century of achievement with the good wishes of all who are concerned for the future of university education.

Population Statistics

THE debate in the House of Commons on November 29, on the second reading of the Population (Statistics)

Bill, was interesting on account of the criticism which the Bill received from both sides of the House. The adverse criticisms were chiefly directed against the requirement of information of a not obviously necessary character, and also against the ambiguous nature of the terms of the schedule. The feeling was expressed by Mr. F. K. Griffith that the public should not be worried by "intimate, irritating, and irrelevant questions". There was no general opposition to the asking of information of a definitely useful character. The report of the debate should be read in conjunction with subsequent correspondence in *The Times*. Thus, Mr. A. P. Herbert, in the issue of December 4, mentions the contention of Prof. A. M. Carr-Saunders and Dr. C. P. Blacker that "three pieces of information were essential for the proper elucidation of the trend of the population—the age of the mother and the duration of the marriage at the birth of each child, and the order of birth of each child"; and he remarks that "if this were all the Bill required the trouble would not have arisen".

PROF. MAJOR GREENWOOD, in the same issue, states that "in Germany the age of the mother, the date of marriage, and the order of birth of the child are recorded on the birth-card. Dr. Burgdörfer was therefore able to determine for 1933 the annual frequency of births to married women of different ages and durations of marriages." With this information, he was able to test the question whether fertility had remained constant in subsequent years. That is the kind of information required by statisticians in Great Britain, not now available, but intended by the Bill to be made available for the future. Unfortunately, the schedule to the Bill gave it a much wider and more indeterminate scope, and it is not surprising that objections were raised. The Minister would be wise if he were to confine the schedule to defining the few simple questions, such as those indicated above, which are really indispensable, at the same time eliminating Clause 3 of the schedule, which lays down that particulars may be required with respect to "any other matter" on which statistical information may be wanted for social investigation.

Sir Harold A. MacMichael, K.C.M.G.

THE appointment of Sir Harold A. MacMichael, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Tanganyika Province, to be High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief for Palestine and Commissioner for Transjordan in succession to General Sir Arthur Wauchope, who resigns on the ground of health, will be received as singularly well judged. Sir Harold is by personal qualities—which count for much in the East—by knowledge of Eastern mentality, and by long previous experience, peculiarly well qualified to cope with the difficulties of mediating between the