

Education in the Royal Air Force

THE Secretary of State for Air has announced that the Air Council has decided to set up an Educational Advisory Council for the Royal Air Force with the following terms of reference: "To keep under review the educational policy for the Royal Air Force and to advise the Secretary of State for Air on such matters connected with education in the Royal Air Force as they think fit and upon any educational questions referred to them by him." The following will, in addition to representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Scottish Education Department, and the Ministry of Labour and National Service, serve on the Council: Dr. Keith A. H. Murray, rector, Lincoln College, Oxford (*chairman*); Mr. Harold E. Clay, president, Workers' Educational Association; Miss M. C. Glasgow, secretary-general, Arts Council of Great Britain; Mr. Ronald Gould, general secretary, National Union of Teachers; Miss V. Holmes, member of the Council of the Women's Employment Federation; Mr. J. C. Jones, director of education, the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London; Air Chief Marshal Sir Edgar Ludlow-Hewitt, R.A.F. (retired); Mr. H. Morris, chief education officer, Cambridgeshire; Mr. J. H. Nicholson, principal, University College, Hull; Dr. D. R. Pye, provost, University College, London; Mr. W. E. Williams, director, Bureau of Current Affairs; Mr. J. F. Wolfenden, headmaster, Shrewsbury School.

Science in the New India

THE presidential address of D. N. Wadia at the thirteenth annual general meeting of the National Institute of Sciences of India, after referring to the ten-acre site which the Institute has acquired for its building and to the organisation and expansion of its secretariat and mentioning the formation of two strong committees to advise the Government on research in the Indian academies, institutes and universities, was devoted to a discussion of the role of science in building the new India. Science, in its comprehensive application to problems of human existence, is the one agency which, in the transition period through which India is passing, will lift the country out of its abnormal economic and industrial depression and put it on the high road to progress and human welfare. The first requisite is that India should align her scientific organisation with that of the progressive countries of the world, and Mr. Wadia welcomed the multiplying ties of India's leading men of science with representative men of science of Great Britain, the United States, the U.S.S.R. and the rest of Europe, referring in particular to the value of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, of the international scientific liaison offices, and to the work of the Royal Society Empire Scientific Conference and of the Commonwealth Scientific Official Conference.

Discussing India's response to the latter Conference, he insisted that the unhealthy distinction between official and unofficial scientific workers must go, and that the universities, private research institutions and societies will more and more be the spearheads of scientific progress. Striking progress has been made in the last few years in irrigation and hydraulic research, and the Government during the last year has sanctioned large-scale operations on several hydro-electric power, irrigation and reservoir projects, giving high priority to three large projects

connected with the harnessing of the Damodar, the Mahanadi, and the Kosi Rivers. A committee formed under the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a long-range programme of research in nuclear physics and artificial creation of atomic particles to be carried out at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and at the Palit Laboratory, University of Calcutta. In regard to minerals, the Government is taking steps to bring under Federal control those of strategic importance and was convening a Conference to formulate a mineral policy for India and to establish executive machinery for guiding production, conservation and utilization of the mineral products mined.

Winchester City Museums, 1847-1947

JULY 15 of this year marked the centenary of the Winchester City Museum, and the curator, Mr. Frank Cottrill, has appropriately marked the occasion with a short account of its history and growth. Established in 1847 as the Hampshire Museum, this institution set out to save for posterity collections illustrative of local history, antiquities and natural history which might otherwise have been "lost or disregarded, retained in private hands, or have found their way to distant exhibitions". For a time the Hampshire Museum flourished on private donations and subscriptions, but later, as has been the case in so many of the local museums founded during or near the same period, this form of support was not maintained. The nature of the collections, however, and the increased use of the Museum by the public, fully justified the upkeep of the institution. Accordingly, in 1851 it was transferred to the custody of the Winchester Town Council, under the government of which it remains at the present time. A Museum Committee was appointed, and the institution from then on became known as the City Museum. In this way was the safety of the Winchester collections safeguarded. Originally housed in the Hyde Abbey schoolroom, the collections were removed first to part of the old jail in Jewry Street, then to the top floor of the Guildhall, and finally, in 1903, to the present building in the Square. Prior to that, in 1898, the Museum was extended by the opening of the Westgate as a second museum. This was largely due to the interest and beneficence of Alderman W. H. Jacob, a keen local historian. A beautiful old building dating from the thirteenth century, but unfortunately overshadowed by modern constructions entirely out of keeping, Westgate to-day houses, among other things, the City's famous collection of weights and measures ranging in date from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries. Here, also, is preserved the Winchester moot-horn of about A.D. 1200.

Mr. Cottrill's proposals for the reorganisation of the Collections concern mainly the very overcrowded City Museum, and he rightly stresses the need for the relegation to store of much of this material if the Museum is to illustrate effectively and teach the early history and subsequent development of the town and county. (Storage in this connexion does not mean that collections will become inaccessible to students and others specifically interested in them.) There is an ever-growing tendency for the smaller museums to specialize in the interests of their own particular region, and this, without doubt, is the only way in which the majority of them can become effective units in the community they serve. The curator of the Winchester Museums clearly wishes for development along similar lines, and if his plans are adopted