

Science is no longer to be merely permitted, tolerated, apologised for; she must preside at the council board because she already rules the lives of the people.

The academic precedence of the faculties, in which theology, arts, and law come before medicine and science, may still be tolerated at the old universities as an interesting and significant relic of earlier times; but in all modern universities (as in the University of Birmingham from its foundation) science is the premier faculty and takes the first place. The world advances, not because of Church history or Homer or Virgil, but because of James Watt and Stephenson and Dalton and Faraday and Harvey and Jenner and Darwin and Kelvin and Lister. Better fifty days of Faraday than a cycle of Aristotle.

Why is a knowledge of science so useful to the modern community? Apart altogether from the way in which science makes for technical efficiency, it is a means second to none in the training of the intellectual powers. It trains us in accuracy of observation, in the power of drawing trustworthy conclusions, in habits of precise thinking generally; and these are not small things.

Science, the true, is the patient, loving interpretation of the world we live in; it is a striving to attain not merely to an understanding of the laws whereby the world is governed, but to the enjoyment of the beauty and order which are everywhere revealed. And the minds of men capable of attaining to such heights of appreciation, and the evidences around us of an all-pervading personality, are only so many additional phenomena to be apprehended as constituent elements of that vast, sublime, age-enduring cosmos which we call the universe.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL.—The council has appointed Dr. P. G. H. Boswell as first holder of the George Herdman chair of geology. Prof. Boswell graduated with first-class honours in geology in the University of London, and obtained the degree of D.Sc. in 1915. He has for some years past been lecturer in geology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and has published many original contributions to geological science. The establishment of a chair of geology in the University has been long delayed, and is now possible owing to the generosity of Prof. and Mrs. Herdman, who have endowed the chair as a memorial to their son, the late Lieut. George Herdman. Prof. Boswell will enter upon his duties in October next.

PROF. C. R. RICHARDS, since 1911 professor of mechanical engineering in the University of Illinois, and head of the department, has been appointed dean of the College of Engineering and director of the Engineering Experiment Station of the University, to succeed Dr. W. F. M. Goss, who has resigned to become president of the Railway Car Manufacturers' Association of New York.

UNDER the will of the late Mrs. Denning, of South Norwood, property of considerable value has been left to form a "Frank Denning Memorial," with the object of promoting the application of modern scientific knowledge to the business life of the community. Mrs. Denning survived her husband only twelve months. The late Alderman Frank Denning was Mayor of Croydon at the time of his sudden decease, and was one of the leading directors of Welford's (Surrey) Dairies, Ltd. He was also a director of colliery companies in Gloucestershire. For some time before his death he was a governor of the Stanley Technical

Trade Schools at South Norwood, and his interest had been aroused in the good work being done at these schools. It is not known at present how the terms of the trust will be carried out, but in view of the success of these schools, it is possible that some developments along the lines already laid down may be looked for. Mr. Denning was a business man before anything else, and the terms of the bequest seem to show that technical education is aimed at, and that pure science as a study had no large place in his mind.

THE report of the Vice-Chancellor on the work of the University of London during the year 1916-17 shows that the total number of commissions granted from the outbreak of the war to December 31, 1916, 20 cadets and ex-cadets of the University contingent of the Officers Training Corps, and to other graduates and students of the University recommended for commissions, was not fewer than 3111; and the honours and distinctions conferred upon officers and cadets during the same period included one Companionship of the Bath, two awards of the Victoria Cross, six of the Distinguished Service Order, 157 of the Military Cross, one of the Distinguished Service Cross, and 199 mentions in despatches, besides from the French Government three awards of the Croix de Guerre and one of the Médaille Militaire. It is recorded that 284 former officers and cadets of the contingent, and thirty-three other officers recommended for commissions by the University, have made the supreme sacrifice for their country. About 21,000 members of the University are, or have been, serving with H.M. Forces. The research work normally conducted in the laboratories attached to the University has been to an increasing degree directed to the assistance of Government departments or other agencies concerned with the requirements of the war. In addition to the response made by teachers and qualified students at the medical schools of our hospitals to the demands of the War Office for physicians and surgeons, considerable services have been rendered to the Government in the departments of physics, chemistry, physiology, pharmacology, bacteriology, metallurgy, and civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### LONDON.

**Geological Society, May 2.**—Dr. Alfred Harker, president, in the chair.—Jane Longstaff (*née* Donald): Supplementary notes on *Aclisina*, De Koninck, and *Aclisoides*, Donald, with descriptions of new species. Since the publication of a paper by the Geological Society on *Aclisina* in 1898, knowledge has been gained of the species there described, and six others new to science have been discovered. The diagnoses of these are given. The total number of species of *Aclisina* is brought up to twenty-two. The genus is best represented in Scotland, where the specimens are generally well preserved. A table is appended giving the range and localities in the British Isles and Belgium. A small variety of *Aclisina pulchra*, De Koninck, appears to have continued for the greatest length of time. Additional observations are also made on *Aclisoides striatula*, De Koninck.—T. H. Burton: The microscopic material of the Bunter pebble-beds of Nottinghamshire and its probable source of origin. As shown by the distribution of the heavy minerals, combined with (a) the direction of the dip in the cross-bedding, (b) the evidence adduced by boreholes and shaft-sinkings, a main current from the west is indicated. A large quantity of the material is derived from metamorphic areas. The source of the bulk of the material is probably Scotland, and the westward