in the hope that it will help to force the present difficult situation of the universities upon the attention of the public.

Henry VI., 1422–61. You probably all think of him as a weakling, the monarch whose forces were cleared out of the best part of France by Joan of Arc—a man naturally almost imbecile, and dominated by his Queen and a succession of dukes, and finally deposed by the victorious House of York. I feel otherwise towards him. For forty-five years I have worked under his image in a niche of my library. On my rare visits to Cambridge I would raise my hat to his statue on the front lawn of the college he founded. He may have been a poor King, but I owe the six most useful years of my life to the freedom his benefaction gave me to travel and to study. Despised as a King, there are many of us who respect our Royal benefactor as a scholar and a gentleman.

The spirit in which the members of old Cambridge colleges regard their founders and benefactors is one that should take deeper root in our new universities.

It is not merely the recognition of the name, but the insight that shall appreciate what the benefactor desired us to achieve, and the determination of successive generations that the purpose of the benefaction shall be carried out.

There are only too many ways of disposing of money! In 1441 it might be done by wars in France, by endowing monasteries to expedite the passage of your soul through purgatory, but those who founded or extended great centres of learning have remained in men's affection for all time. Nowadays you can dispose of your money to party funds or to charities; your name will survive just as long as your money is unspent or you have more to give. But the man who gives generously to a great academic institute will, if he chooses wisely, be certain of an ever-green memory.

In this institute we have had a number of benefactors, but three stand out for special mention on such an occasion as the present. The Worshipful Company of Drapers, who from 1903 onwards have assisted one section of our enterprise. Sir Francis Galton, who came of a family which has founded no fewer than three academic chairs, the Sedleian, the Savilian, and my own chair. Under his inspiration we work, and we are more than pleased to be better able to keep his memory fresh in our new buildings here than has been possible in the past in our cramped and temporary homes.

Lastly, we come to the benefactor whose benefaction is the subject of our gathering to-day. To him not only I, but every member of my staff feel daily gratitude for providing us with a more fitting, and, I will add, a more healthy environment, than we ever imagined would be ours, and I trust that the tradition will remain long after I have ceased to share the comfort of this building and the possibilities for the studious life it provides.

Those who have gone round this laboratory will have noted that we try to keep before us not only the portraits of great leaders of thought, but the portraits of the men who have made our work possible, and in this respect I should hope to be pardoned if I reminded Sir Herbert Bartlett of how deeply we should all appreciate the addition of such a memorial of his gift, so that we may have his form as well as his good works before us.

The war has left all academic enterprise stranded. In 1914 we could have equipped and fitted this building from basement to top story. Our contracts were rescinded, and for five years this laboratory was used as a military hospital. At present the fine buildings Sir Herbert Bartlett has provided lie to a large extent unoccupied. In 1871 the German nation made the extension of old and the founding of new universities a first claim on their war indemnities. In 1920 we hear no suggestion that from our universities a new national life has to spring, and that if they are to accomplish their task it can only be if the State and private friends come to their help in the present critical state of affairs. In this respect we can only trust that others will be as wise both for the present and for the future as Sir Herbert Bartlett has been. The winning of the war has been attributed in succession to many causes. One factor is rarely referred to, namely, the unselfish way in which the academic staff of university after university gave up their academic repose, broke through all their scholarly studies and their scientific researches, and, where they could not sacrifice their lives, at least sacrificed many of their best years of work for national service. Voluntary, and unpaid, and unpayable gifts for national welfare! It is absurd that the universities should have to prate of such labours; but here is the fact, regard it in what aspect you like, that with a greater task than ever before them, they are left with far less power to carry it out than they had before the war, and it is that knowledge which makes us the more deeply grateful to the special benefactor whom we wish to honour in this vote of thanks. He saw our necessity and responded to it.

The Imperial Entomological Conference.

THE Committee of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology may be congratulated on the success of the Entomological Conference which met on June 1–11 in the Linnean Society's rooms, Burlington House, London. The conference was attended by twenty official delegates representing most of the British Dominions, Colonies, and Protectorates, as well as by members of the committee of the Bureau, while a number of entomologists were invited to the meetings and discussions which occupied most of the appointed days. At the opening of the conference the delegates were received by Viscount Harcourt, chairman of the committee, and business meetings were held on the first and final days. On Friday, June 4, the conference visited the Rothamsted Agricultural Experiment Station in conjunction with a meeting of the Association of Economic Biologists; an account of this interesting day appeared in last week's NATURE (p. 464). On Tuesday, June 8, the members journeyed to Oxford, and on Thursday, June 10, to Cambridge. Prof. E. B. Poulton acted as host on the former, and Sir Arthur Shipley on the latter occasion. While the entomological collections in the University museums were the chief objects of interest, time was found for brief inspection of some features of the historic cities; for example, after entertaining the conference to lunch in Christ's College, Sir Arthur Shipley took the Overseas delegates into the rooms occupied ninety years ago by Charles Darwin.

Of the meetings held on the other five days of the conference it may be said that several subjects of much importance and of general interest were well and earnestly discussed. On the morning of June 2, under the presidency of Dr. R. Stewart MacDougall (Edinburgh), Mr. C. P. Lounsbury (Entomologist to the Union of South Africa) spoke on "Legislation in Regard to Plant Pests in the British Empire," insisting that the official entomologist should have authority to draft and enforce regulations against the introduction of plants which might harbour harmful insects; he advocated the drastic exclusion of such plants except in certain special cases, and expressed the opinion that little or no reliance can be placed on

certificates of freedom from pests—a view afterwards supported by several others who took part in the discussion. Mr. H. J. Elwes, however, remarked that a long experience in cultivation had convinced him that needless interference with freedom of import had sometimes been exercised by the authorities. On the chairman's suggestion, a sub-committee was appointed to consider the establishment of an Empire Convention on the subject.

"The Education of Economic Entomologists," the subject for discussion at the next morning meeting presided over by Prof. Poulton, was introduced by Prof. H. Maxwell Lefroy (Imperial College of Science). Prof. Lefroy advocated the establishment of entomology as a subject independent of general zoology, and, describing the courses in his own college, emphasised the necessity of a broad scientific training in physics, chemistry, and biology before the specialised entomological work could be profitably taken up; men with exceptional aptitude, however, might be admitted direct to advanced entomological study. The discussion was continued by Dr. R. J. Tillyard (Nelson, N.Z.), Dr. R. Stewart MacDougall (Edinburgh), Mr. F. Balfour Browne (Cambridge), Prof. R. Newstead (Liverpool), Prof. G. H. Carpenter (Royal College of Science, Dublin), Prof. R. D. Watt (Sydney, N.S.W.), and Mr. F. V. Theobald (Wye). While some doubt was expressed as to the advisability of divorcing entomology from general zoological study, there was general agreement as to the need of a sound and comprehensive scientific training, and several of the speakers insisted further that all entomologists in direct contact with cultivators ought to have practical knowledge of farm or garden work.

On Monday morning, June 7, Sir Daniel Morris in the chair, Mr. H. A. Ballou (Entomologist to the Department of Agriculture for the West Indies) opened a discussion on "The Resistance of Plants to Insect Attacks." He believed that in many cases perfectly healthy plants do not afford the best possible conditions for the life of sucking insects, while the food supply derived from weak or diseased plants may stimulate insects to abnormally quick growth and prolific reproduction. This view was supported by the infestation of thrips on cocoa-trees in the West Indies. Prof. R. D. Watt emphasised the possibility of finding strains of cultivated plants immune from insect attack, analogous to those now well known in certain cases as immune from fungus pests. Mr. C. C. Gowdey (Uganda) considered good cultural methods as of great importance in maintaining the resistant conditions.

A cognate subject, "Artificial *versus* Natural Methods of Control of Insect Pests," occupied the conference on Wednesday morning, June 9, when Prof. R. Newstead presided. Mr. F. W. Urich (Trinidad) opened the discussion with an account of various measures adopted in the West Indies, of which the distribution by means of spraying machines of fungus spores for the destruction of cercopids on sugar-cane was the most remarkable. Dr. Tillyard regarded spraying with insecticides as an imperfect palliative, and looked hopefully for results in poisoning aphids and scale-insects from the inoculation of trees with such substances as copper sulphate. Mr. F. Balfour Browne uttered a warning against the possible danger of introducing parasitic insects into new countries in order that they may prey upon previously introduced plant-feeding insects, but Prof. H. Maxwell Lefroy and Dr. A. D. Imms regarded any danger from this now-established practice as remote.

Several interesting papers on more special subjects were read. On the afternoon of Monday, June 7, Mr. G. E. Bodkin gave his experience of the insect pests of British Guiana, and dwelt on the difficulty of controlling sugar-cane insects because of their habits of migration. On the same occasion Mr. F. W. Urich described the insect pests of Trinidad, and Mr. H. A. Ballou contributed a general review of conditions in the West Indies. On the afternoon of June 9 Dr. MacDougall lectured on "Insects in Relation to Afforestation," with lantern illustrations, pointing out the bearing of the feeding habits of common British timber- and bark-beetles upon practical questions of forest management. A discussion involving the uniformity of habit among insects of the same species in all parts of its range was carried on by Mr. C. F. C. Beeson (India) and Dr. Munro (Board of Forestry); the latter expressed regret that the Scottish and English Scolytidæ follow the rules laid down in the classical German text-books of forest entomology. Mr. F. A. Stockdale (Ceylon) followed with an account of the insect pests of tea in that island. On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 2, when Sir David Prain took the chair, Mr. H. H. Ballou read a paper on "Cotton Pests," dwelling particularly on the boll weevil and the pink bollworm, the latter of which caused a loss of 10,000,000*l.* in Egypt in the year 1917. Cotton insects are controlled by destroying at the end of the season all material in the field in which the species might survive until the next season. Mr. H. H. King described the organisation of entomological work in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and stated that nine field laboratories under the charge of trained entomologists would be necessary for the proper working of the area.

Of the special questions discussed the most noteworthy was the tsetse-fly problem, considered at the meeting on Saturday morning, June 5, appropriately presided over by Sir David Bruce. Several entomologists from Africa spoke, including Messrs. R. W. Jack (South Rhodesia), Dr. A. May (North Rhodesia), and Mr. Ll. Lloyd and Dr. G. D. H. Carpenter (Uganda). An experiment as to the effect on the fly of the clearance of "big game" from a district in Rhodesia is now being tried. The opinion was expressed that the result of this will be disappointing, as mammalian blood forms, as a rule, only a small proportion of the food-supply of Glossina. Dr. Carpenter informed the meeting of the success which had followed the erection of inclined screens, under which hundreds of puparia are found; this means of control was suggested by an observation of the large number of puparia present in the shelter of a blown-down tree.

The conference concluded on Friday, June 11, with a business meeting, at which several resolutions were passed; these may be briefly summarised. (1) A conference should be held in London every five years. (2) The Imperial Bureau of Entomology should be established permanently; the cessation or curtailment of its work would be deplorable. (3) The Governments contributing to the expenses of the Bureau should be urged to guarantee their contributions. (4) The funds at present contributed for the upkeep of the Bureau are inadequate; they should be increased so as to provide an income of at least 13,000*l.* a year. (5) The Colonial Secretary should be requested to establish a provident fund for the Bureau staff. (6) The director and committee of the Bureau should have full power to exercise their discretion as to the scope and contents of the publications and the expenditure involved. (7) The director should encourage members of the staff to pay attention to particular groups of insects, especially those for the identification of which no specialist is available. (8) The provision of an adequate number of trained men to carry into effect existing plant-import legislation is of more immediate importance than the revision or extension of such legislation.

Members of the conference had the privilege of attending meetings of the Linnean, Zoological, and Entomological Societies, as well as the Staff Conversazione at the Natural History Museum. These gatherings, in addition to the three whole-day excursions to Rothamsted, Oxford, and Cambridge, gave welcome opportunity for informal discussion and pleasant social intercourse. Much gratification was felt and expressed at the presence for the first two days of Dr. L. O. Howard, Entomologist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His brief, pointed remarks at some of the discussions were much appreciated; he deplored some recent attempts to destroy "entomology" as a specific economic subject by dividing its subject-matter between "parasitology" and "phytopathology." All who participated in the conference appreciated the untiring efforts of Dr. G. A. K. Marshall and Dr. S. A. Neave, of the Imperial Bureau, who before and during the meetings did their utmost for the success of the gathering.

On the evening of the closing day the members of the conference were entertained to dinner at Lancaster House by H.M. Government, Viscount Harcourt presiding. Thus was pleasantly and fittingly demonstrated the increasing recognition of the importance of the study and practice of science in relation to the interests and industries of the Empire.

G. H. C.

The Selous Memorial at the Natural History Museum.

THE movement started in 1917 to perpetuate the memory of the late Capt. F. C. Selous, D.S.O., by a national memorial achieved its aim on Thursday, June 10, when Mr. Edward North Buxton, vice-chairman of the Memorial Committee, himself a great hunter in his day, in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, the Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., unveiled at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, a bronze bust of Selous—the work of Mr. W. R. Colton, R.A.—before a distinguished and representative gathering.

The bust is mounted in a niche of grey granite from the Matoppo Hills, the burial-place of Cecil Rhodes and Sir Starr Jameson, and is the gift of the Union Government of South Africa. It was brought to this country by the Union Castle Line free of all charges. Below the bust is a bas-relief, also in bronze, depicting a lion and lioness, and in the distance an elephant, a situtunga, and other big-game animals, symbolical of the interests of the great sportsman and explorer. The granite bears the inscription: "Captain Frederick C. Selous, D.S.O., hunter, explorer, and naturalist. Born 1853. Killed in action at Beho-Beho, German East Africa, 4. i. 1917."

Mr. Buxton in his speech referred to the qualities of Selous which had endeared him to so many friends, and summarised these when he said that "Selous was a great hunter, and a still greater gentleman." On behalf of the committee he asked Viscount Grey of Fallodon, K.G., and the other trustees of the museum to accept the memorial and to preserve it in the museum for all posterity.

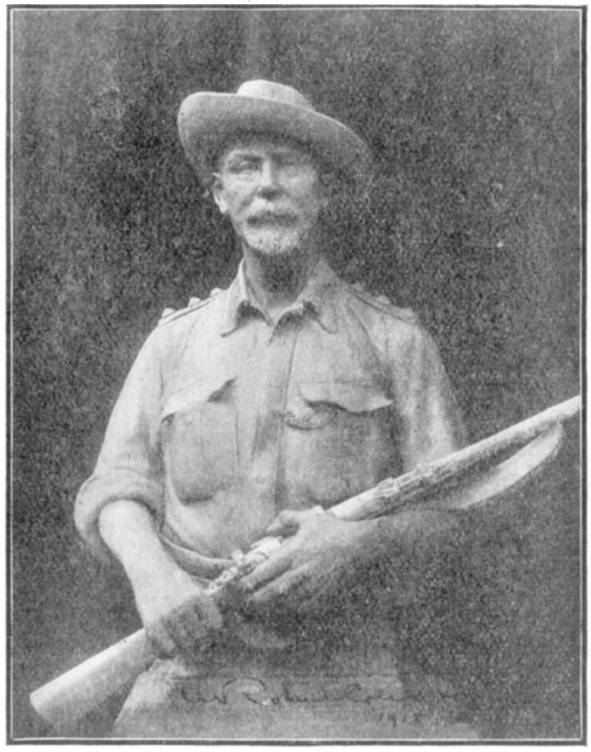
In his reply Lord Grey stated that in the museum, which was a national institution, this national memorial would be kept and honoured as a memorial to one who was a great explorer, a great traveller, a great hunter, and, besides that, a most brave and single-minded and attractive character.

The King sent a message to the effect that he felt that no more appropriate place than the Natural History Museum could be selected for a memorial to Capt. F. C. Selous.

It is indeed in the fitness of things that this memorial should have found a permanent place in the museum; for, next to his own home, there was no place in England which more attracted Selous than the museum, and when he was in this country he seldom kept away from it for more than a week; sometimes he was a daily visitor.

A guard of honour composed of officers and men of the Legion of Frontiersmen, many of whom had served with Selous in East Africa, and a detachment of the Kensington Division of Boy Scouts were present.

The response to the committee's appeal for funds for the memorial has been so widespread and generous that they have been able to provide a sum of money for the foundation of a substantial Selous scholarship at his old school, Rugby, on the basis that preference will be given at each election to the sons of officers who have fallen in the war, and in this connection



The Selous Memorial Bust in the Natural History Museum. On the right hand side of the memorial, not shown here, is the following inscription:—"Captain Frederick C. Selous, D.S.O., hunter, explorer, and naturalist. Born 1853, Killed in action at Beho-Beho, German East Africa, 4.i.1917."

it is with special satisfaction that we learn that in the examination for the scholarship a love and knowledge of natural history on the part of the candidate will be the deciding factor.

A few words may be said respecting Mrs. Selous's gift to the nation of her husband's splendid collection of big-game trophies and of birds' eggs, a gift for which Viscount Grey, on behalf of the trustees, conveyed to the donor his warm thanks, and at the same time expressed his high appreciation of its value and importance.

The collections have now been received at the Natural History Museum, and the big-game specimens are in course of being catalogued by Mr. Guy Dollman. We understand that it is the intention of the trustees to publish this catalogue, a work which cannot fail