

Salford School Board for ten years, from 1872, and for a time on Salford Town Council. He also entered Parliament, where his intimate knowledge of industrial and educational matters proved of the greatest service. On the appointment of the Royal Commission of 1881 on technical education at home and abroad, the report of which did so much to direct the attention of the nation to its shortcomings in the means of education and training in science and its applications, Sir William Mather, because of his intimate experience of the conditions of industry in the United States and Russia, accepted the position of special commissioner in those countries and wrote two valuable reports which were included with that of the Royal Commission. The inquiries of this Commission undoubtedly led to the passing of the Technical Instruction Act of 1889 and to the subsequent Excise and Customs Act of 1890, by which a fund of 800,000*l.* was placed at the service of technical instruction.

Sir William Mather's intimate association with educational institutions in the United States, and his sympathy with the system of manual training prevailing there, enabled him to invite its chief exponent, Prof. Woodward, of St. Louis, to a conference in Manchester in 1882 on "Education under Healthy Conditions," with the result that there was established in the Manchester Mechanics' Institution the first manual training school in Great Britain. He gave to Chetham College (for orphan boys) in Manchester a complete manual training equipment, and likewise did the same service for the engineering department of the college at Khartoum, in the Sudan. He identified himself with all types of educational advance, founding in Manchester the Mather College for the training of kindergarten teachers, and taking a deep interest in the activities of the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes, of which he was president from 1908 until 1919, in connection with which he founded a valuable scholarship and exhibitions.

One of the chief features of the Franco-British Exhibition of 1908 was the fine display of British educational enterprise, which owed its initiation to Sir William Mather, and of which he bore the entire cost. The value of the exhibition was much enhanced by the addresses of eminent educationists whom he invited. He was a warm supporter of the British Science Guild, founded in 1905, and was its president from 1913 to 1917. He regarded it as "a body capable of development up to the rank of a powerful national institution permeating the industrial life of the Empire with the fruits of scientific research," and to it he gave the most liberal financial support. On the foundation of the Association of Technical Institutions he became its first president, and gave it effective aid in many ways. By Sir William Mather's death the causes of education and of scientific efficiency in industry suffer an almost irremediable loss. He was laid to rest on Wednesday in the grounds of Prestwich Parish Church, near Manchester.

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THE death is announced, on August 19, at fifty-six years of age, of PROF. T. RIDLER DAVIES, associate professor of mathematics at McGill University, Montreal.

SIR WILLIAM BABTIE, V.C., who held many important posts in the Army Medical Service, died on September 11, in Belgium, where he was spending a holiday. Sir William was born in 1859 at Dumbarton, and was educated at Glasgow University, where he took his M.B. degree in 1880. In the same year he became L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. of Edinburgh, and in the following year entered the Army Medical Service, of which he was made Deputy-Director-General in 1910. He retained this post until 1914, when he was appointed Director of Medical Services in India; later he filled the same office in the Mediterranean. He was created a K.C.M.G. in 1916 and a K.C.B. in 1919, and was known as an administrator rather than for his medical work.

SIR JAMES B. BALL, chief engineer of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, who died suddenly on September 17, was born in 1867, and started as a railway engineer with the Great Northern Railway in 1890. He served with various companies until he became engineer-in-chief of the Great Central Railway in 1912, a post which he occupied until 1917, when he went to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway. During the latter part of the war, Sir James Ball was appointed Controller of Timber Supplies for the Board of Trade, and in 1918 he was knighted. He received the Telford gold medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and was the author of several technical papers communicated to that body. His work included the design and execution of many large-scale railway and dock enterprises.

SIR J. W. BYERS, one of the leading physicians of the North of Ireland, who died on September 20, was born in China in 1853, but was educated and spent his life in Belfast. He commenced practice in the Children's Hospital at Belfast in 1879, and in 1882 he took over the department for diseases of women in the Royal Victoria Hospital in that city. In 1896 he was elected honorary president of the International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He was president of the Section of Obstetric Medicine and Gynaecology of the British Medical Association in 1901, and from 1902 to 1906 was a member of the council of that body. In 1907, Sir John Byers was president of the Section of Physical Education and Training in Personal Hygiene of the International Congress on School Hygiene, and in 1916 he was knighted. During his lifetime he took a prominent part in all movements concerned with public health, particularly those dealing with tuberculosis and infant mortality. He was the author of many medical works, and of some papers and a book on the folklore of Ulster.