

ment it has been urged that association with other students tends to divert a certain number of agricultural men to other subjects. But it is probable that an agricultural department of a university tends to attract more men than it loses. The courses provided in university departments of agriculture are intended for the education of future landowners, land agents, and large farmers, but for investigators it is found best that they should pass through an honours school in pure science before taking up the study of the application of science to agriculture. The report lays special emphasis on the need for the study of accountancy, which in its application to costs of production may be a powerful instrument in determining the economic success of a farm.

It is pointed out that the cost of providing the necessary staffs in a university or college is now so great that it is impossible for each college to provide highly specialised instruction in every branch of agricultural education, but that extreme specialisation must be left to individual colleges. Again, tutorial instruction and encouragement of private reading are urged as a means of relieving pressure on formal lectures, and so of keeping down expenses.

While agricultural departments in universities and agricultural colleges are the agency of providing instruction to prospective landowners, large farmers, and public servants, the needs of the ordinary farmer's son are best supplied through farm institutes. The latter have been developed in recent years as the result of the recommendations of Lord Reay's Committee which in 1905 strongly urged their creation. These farm institutes are under the authority of County Councils, directed by the Ministry of Agriculture. An agricultural education committee having been set up, it submits its scheme to the ministry, and this, if approved, is supported by grants. The staff of an institute consists in most cases of an organiser, a director of agriculture, and certain teachers. The county organiser is usually the head of the farm institute, and towards his salary the ministry may contribute as much as four-fifths. It also pays annual grants up to two-thirds of the total general expenditure. Classes are provided as a rule for twenty-four weeks during winter, at a time, namely, when young farmers can leave their farms and devote their time to study. While a certain amount of manual training is possible at farm institutes, it is recognised that the best place for getting such instruction is on the farm of the student's father. The teaching of science is in close contact with practice, and is concerned principally with such subjects as varieties of crops, methods of cultivation, rotations, manures and feeding stuffs, principles of feeding and breeding, dairying, poultry, and farm book-keeping. Such farm institutes have been established in Cumberland, Essex, Hampshire, Carnarvonshire, Monmouthshire, Cheshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, and Denbigh, while others are contemplated in Durham, Kent, Carmarthen, West Sussex, and the Holland Division of Lincolnshire.

Besides providing instruction for students, the colleges and institutes are intended to serve as advisory centres for farmers generally. Such advisory officers are usually specialists in plant pathology, botany, chemistry, and general agriculture, and to these farmers are encouraged to turn in case of difficulty. This they are doing in increasing numbers every year, and one of the most gratifying features of the present position is the disappearance of prejudice on the part of cultivators to education and science.

University and Educational Intelligence.

ABERDEEN.—Mr. G. P. Thomson, lecturer in mathematics at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, has been appointed professor of natural philosophy in succession to Prof. C. Niven, who has retired.

LEEDS.—The honorary degree of Doctor of Science has been awarded to Prof. A. F. Holleman, of the University of Amsterdam.

PROF. CHARLES CROWTHER has been appointed Principal of the Harper-Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Salop, in succession to Mr. P. Hedworth Foulkes, who has been Principal since the College opened in 1900.

AN important conference of representatives of British and Swiss universities took place at Basle last month. There were present fifteen delegates from Great Britain and Ireland, Oxford being represented by the Vice-Chancellor and the Warden of All Souls, Manchester by the Vice-Chancellor and Prof. T. F. Tout, Edinburgh by Sir Richard Lodge and Prof. J. Mackinnon, and Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Leeds, London, Wales, St. Andrews, Dublin, and the National University of Ireland each by one delegate. Each of the seven Swiss cantonal universities was represented. At the three formal sessions of the conference, held on August 22 and 23 in the great hall of the University, the topics of discussion were the recognition by the British universities of university entrance examinations passed, university studies pursued, and degrees conferred in Switzerland, and *vice versa*, and interchange of university teachers. Of perhaps even greater importance than the formal discussions were the conversations for which ample opportunities were provided in the course of the numerous social functions at which the visitors were entertained. The Federal Ecole Polytechnique of Zürich was unfortunately not represented at the conference. Before the war this institution, like the cantonal universities, drew a large proportion of its students from other countries where economic conditions are at present unfavourable to the migration of students to Switzerland. Consequently there are plenty of vacant places in its laboratories, which are well equipped for advanced work in, for example, industrial chemistry and electrical engineering.

A PROVISIONAL programme has been issued by the Sociological Society, Leplay House, 65 Belgrave Road, Westminster, S.W.1, of a conference on the correlation of the social sciences, which it is proposed to hold at Oxford on October 7-9. The conference will not be open to the public, but invitations are being issued to members of the Sociological Society and to representatives of the social sciences from the universities of Great Britain. The object of the conference is to provide an opportunity for the discussion by specialists of various branches of social science with the view of co-ordination. Mr. F. S. Marvin (history), Sir Halford Mackinder (geography), Mr. Julian Huxley (biology), Prof. C. E. Spearman (psychology), Prof. L. T. Hobhouse (philosophy), Dr. R. R. Marett (anthropology), Prof. J. E. G. de Montmorency (law), and the Rev. A. J. Carlyle (political science), will probably address the conference, dealing with the various aspects of sociology named.