

A "FEDERALISATION" of the London Institute of Historical Research in the interests of students in all British universities has for some years past been advocated by Sir Richard Lodge, and he was able to announce at the universities' conference of May 10 that the idea had been adopted by the Council of the Institute. In America a movement of a similar character has been set on foot with the object of utilising in the future more fully than in the past the material and scholarly resources at Washington for purposes of graduate study and research by students from all parts of the United States. The attitude of the leaders of the movement is summed up in a phrase used by Prof. Leuschner of California in a paper presented last November to the Association of American Universities: "Every graduate school should extend to Washington." Prof. Leuschner went on to say that American graduate students move about more and more freely and that this development is not merely due to the advice of deans and professors but is increasingly due also to the scholarly initiative of the students themselves. He admitted that this freedom is "impeded at times by a certain *local pride or provincialism of departments* and their representatives, who fear loss of students and of prestige by carrying it to its logical conclusion." He stated, however, that it is fully recognised that few universities can undertake distinguished work in many branches. On the important question whether fellowships are allowed to operate as impediments to free migration, he went no further than to say that he hoped no fellowships are being maintained that are not primarily established for the fullest enjoyment of great opportunities in the field of scholarship and research.

THE report of the Imperial Education Conference Committee on the use of the cinematograph in education has been issued recently (H.M. Stationery Office, 1924. 1s. net). Not the least part of the value of the report lies in the extracts from memoranda submitted by inspectors and secretaries of education who have watched experiments, by headmasters who have introduced films into their schools, and by teachers who have actually used the cinematograph in teaching. The positive conclusions reached are those which are fairly obvious: namely, that the cinematograph can be of real value as an adjunct to present methods, and that it should be recognised as part of the normal equipment of educational institutions, especially for use in teaching nature study, geography, science, and industrial processes. It is noteworthy that those who have had practical teaching experience with the instrument are much more enthusiastic than are others. Though nothing is said in the report, opinion seems to be swinging round to the view that the classroom rather than the picture theatre is the place for educational work with the film. Importance is rightly attached to the fact that projectors and screens now exist quite suitable for use in a classroom, and that the technical difficulties which used to prevent their use have disappeared, though the difficulty of cost remains. The absence of suitable films is, however, referred to again and again. One hint is given, that films should not take longer than ten minutes to run through; the writers of this note would say five; but this does not carry us very far. The crux of the problem is reached when the Committee says that the films "which are procurable are unco-ordinated and do not fit in with one another or with the ordinary school syllabuses." It is the well-thought-out teaching syllabus which dominates the situation, and film producers who desire to get the patronage of, or to help, teachers must take account of it.

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Early Science at the Royal Society.

August 26, 1663. It being related by Mr. Oldenburg the secretary, that he had been desired by Monsieur Ludolf, councillor of the duke of Saxe-Gotha, to procure from the society, for a domestic of that prince, who was to be sent into Egypt and Ethiopia, some instructions of inquiries fit to be made in those parts; the society desired Mr. Boyle, Mr. Henshaw, and other members to draw up some queries for that purpose. [Among these was one, "Whether, tho' the plague be never so great before, yet on the first day of the river's increase, the plague not only decreases, but absolutely ceaseth; not one dying of it after?"]

August 27, 1662. Upon the occasion of the manuscript philosophical books, which were presented to the society for their examination, and received a good character from those members, who had read them, it was ordered, that no books presented to the censure of the society shall receive approbation from them; but only, if the society think fit to refer such books to one or more of the fellows, esteemed by them competent judges thereof, that the report made thereof to the society by such fellows, may be communicated to the authors of the books thus presented; and that it may be signed by one of the secretaries.

August 28, 1661. Dr. Clarke read a paper entitled "Observations on the humble and sensible plants in Mr. Chiffin's garden in St. James's Park, made August 9, 1661."—Mr. Boyle presented the book which he had published since the order was made, that every member, who should publish any book, should give one to the society's library.

August 29, 1662. In the afternoon of this day the president and council, with other members of the society, waited on the king, to return him the thanks of the society for the patent of their establishment. The president made a speech to his majesty [This extols the king's grace and favour, and expresses "our firm resolution to pursue sincerely and unanimously the end—the advancement of the knowledge of natural things, and all useful arts, by experiments."]

1678. His grace the Duke of Norfolk being present at this meeting, renewed the declaration of his gift to the Society of the Arundelian library; and gave his consent and direction for the removal thereof: and that they should have liberty to exchange such books thereof, as were duplicates, or which they should think not so proper for their use, for others of equal value. His grace added, that Sir William Dugdale had presented him with a catalogue of books of heraldry, as he in the name of the heralds had desired. But upon perusal of the same finding many of them to be such, as did not so properly belong to the business of heraldry, the duke was desirous, that Sir Robert Redding and Mr. Evelyn would peruse the said catalogue, and consider what were most proper for the college of heralds, and what might be more proper for the use of the Society, and to moderate and adjudge the matter between the Society and college. But it was his grace's further pleasure and desire, that in case the Society should be dissolved (which it was his desire and hope they never would be) the said library might revert to his heirs. The Society by the mouth of the president returned his grace their most humble and hearty thanks for this his truly noble present: and ordered Mr. Hooke to take care, that the determination of the matter between them and the college of heralds might be made with all convenient speed; and that thereupon the books should be forthwith removed to Gresham College.—Mr. Henshaw moved, that a fair catalogue of them might be made, to be delivered to the duke to remain in his grace's custody.