

it is evident that all departments are actively engaged in research.

LORD EMMOTT presided at an important meeting held in the Regent Street Polytechnic, London, on Friday, February 27, when the question of an inquiry into the relationship of technical education to other forms of education and to industry and commerce was discussed. The case for the inquiry was presented by Lord Emmott and Mr. J. Wickham Murray (Joint Committee of the Three Technical and Art Associations). Their speeches indicated that, although technical education forms the contact-point between education and industry, its place in the national system of education is undefined. Since, in any area, the technical institute draws its pupils from all other types of school, it is essential—if waste and overlapping are to be prevented—that its relationship to those other schools should be clearly understood. Further, since technical education (including applied art) is the contact-point with industry, it is very necessary that more definite relationships be established if education is successfully to be linked to the world's work. Educationists and industrialists seem more than ever to be sharply critical of each other's aims and methods, but no comprehensive attempt has been made towards sane and tolerant discussion of mutual problems. It is now proposed to bring together not only primary, secondary, technical, and university teachers, but also employers, representative industrial and commercial bodies, and learned institutions. Among the bodies represented at the meeting were the British Association, the Federation of British Industries, professional engineering bodies, teachers' associations, Institutes of Chemistry and Physics, and the British Science Guild. The meeting finally resolved that the inquiry was desirable, and that the bodies represented be asked to appoint representatives to a committee whose work will be the preparation of the ground which the inquiry will cover.

THE Parliamentary Grant (ordinary) for universities and university colleges in the British Isles, which was increased in 1921 from 1,000,000*l.* to 1,500,000*l.* (including 110,000*l.* for Irish universities), did not escape the attention of the Geddes Economy Committee. For each of the two succeeding years it was (for Great Britain only) 1,169,000*l.*, and for 1924-25 it is 1,122,570*l.*, excluding the new grants (amounting now to 120,000*l.*) for Oxford and Cambridge. Last November a deputation from all the universities of Great Britain, except Oxford and Cambridge, headed by Sir Donald MacAlister, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge the raising of the grant to 1,500,000*l.* A letter on this subject from Mr. Churchill to Lord Balfour, who introduced the deputation, was published in the *Times* of March 2. After reciting the salient points of the case presented by the deputation, which was very sympathetically received, the letter announces the stabilisation of the grant for five years at 1,380,000*l.* (excluding provision for Oxford and Cambridge). For this relief the universities will, undoubtedly, echo the expression of thanks conveyed in Lord Balfour's reply, and if their gratification is tempered by regret that Mr. Churchill has so firmly required them to forgo the expectation of any further increase for at least five years, they cannot fail to recognise that even this condition carries with it compensations, among which may be reckoned the greater precision and therefore effectiveness with which they will be able to define their needs when appealing for aid to local authorities, to alumni, and to the public. The amount at which the grant has now been fixed (1,380,000*l.*) is approximately 39 per cent. of the aggregate annual expenditure of the universities concerned in 1922-23.

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Early Science at Oxford.

March 7, 1683/4.—After ye reading of ye Minutes, Dr. Plot was pleased to acquaint ye Society that he had lately calcined clay-ochre, and stone-ochre (both which were yellow, from Shotover) about thirty-six hours, but neither of them applyed to ye Magnet; which gave ye Doctor grounds to question, whether yellow ochres will be affected by ye Magnet after any calcination, how long soever. Tobacco-pipe clay, Marl, Bole armeniac and Terra Lemnia were calcined ye same space of time, but none of them applyed to ye Magnet.

Then Dr. Pit was pleased to inform ye Society that Oyl Olive is incapable of any ebullition after it has spent its aqueous parts, which rise in bubbles; for, being pressed with a stronger fire, than what made water boyl over a large vessell, it could not be sensibly raised, although ye heat of ye oyl was so intense, that, being removed from ye fire, it broke out into a flame, and continued to do so after six or seven suffocations of ye flame. Butter boyls over till its serous parts are evaporated, but afterwards, though pressed with a very great heat, is no more capable of ebullition, than so much melted lead.

A Report of ye consultation, held for ye drawing up Articles, for ye better Regulation of ye Society, was offered; but ye examination of it was deferred, till ye next meeting: which was ordered to be on ye Tuesday following, at 2 after dinner.

March 8, 1686/7.—Dr. Plot reported on the prices of commodities in the time of King John, which he had extracted from a Dugdale manuscript in the Ashmolean Library.—Mr. President wrote to Mr. Halley several arguments against Mr. Hooke's late hypothesis of the change of the surface of ye Earth.

March 9, 1685/6.—Dr. Lister of London communicated a paper of Georgics concerning ye improvement of Sandy land by ye *Vicia multiflora nemorensis perennis sive Dumetorum* L.B. which is practised both in Yorkshire and Staffordshire.

March 10, 1684/5.—Mr. Maunders speaking of ye dismall weather on ye 23rd of December last, says, that above eighty Persons were found killed by it, in Wiltshire and Dorsetshire. Some died suddenly, others by degrees: some, that escaped, were so tormented in their hands, and face (parts exposed to ye cold) that, as they recovered, and ye swellings abated, the skin peeled off, and they were some days without ye use of their limbes, and sometimes of their senses.—Part of Mr. King's ingenious discourse of Bogs was read; and also Mr. Aston's letter relating that ye Savages of Canada get from Maple juice a sugar as sweet as that of ye Canes.

March 11, 1683/4.—Salamander's wool was observed, by Mr. Ballard, to be separated from ye earthy parts, to which it is joyn'd, by heating the Amianthus and bruising it into peices. It was ordered, that some attempts should be made, towards ye working this wool into a thread; that so we may [if it be possible] either trace out ye methods of ye Antients, or equall their inventions with new ones in this kind; for ye effecting of which, Dr. Beeston was pleased to take on him, ye trouble of employing some curious hand, suitable to so ingenious a design.

March 13, 1687/8.—Mr. Cole of Bristoll discoursed concerning the Descent of Spiders with their webs, taken in the County of Wilts in September and October 1686, with an occasionall discourse about Spontaneous Generation wherein is given also an account of people that have been witnesses of the raining of frogs and crabs.