

evident, and ought to be attainable without much difficulty.

IN his presidential address on "University Ideals" to the Yorkshire Natural Science Association in Bradford, which has recently been issued, Prof. A. F. Barker of Leeds discusses the ideals characteristic of the schools of the humanities, of pure science, and of applied science, and the relation to them of the scientific and technological bias, which is the most distinguishing feature of the modern universities. He adopts the view of Dr. L. P. Jacks, that so long as civilisation remains predominantly industrial, all attempts to find culture, religion, salvation outside the sphere of our daily work must "resolve themselves ultimately into spoken nothings." To render the training of the faculties fruitful, they must be made sensitive to the appeal of natural science. The student must be taught to regard Nature, natural science, technology, and the objective world generally as a mirror in which man may see himself. "The limitation of our powers of vision is in ourselves; and the University's highest and deepest concern lies in the stimulation, through contact with the subjective and objective worlds and with the everyday life of the world which lies about us, of the light within ourselves—of our evolving consciousness." This is to apply in the university the principles of what is known in American pedagogical terminology as the "project method." The same principles are advocated in a pamphlet by Prof. J. W. Scott of University College, Cardiff, under the name of "the regional idea," for revitalising the teaching in our elementary schools to the end that their pupils may be better equipped for life in the world of industry ("Unemployment—a suggested remedy," A. and C. Black, 1925, 1s. net). In connexion with the encouragement of individuality in organisation, which seems to Prof. Barker an essential feature of the modern university system, he refers to "the fight for the inclusion of the Research Associations within the university," and "the fight which is now being waged in several of the modern universities in England for the reintroduction of religion into the university life in some form or other."

THE morning session of the annual Conference of the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland, held at King's College, London, on May 9, was devoted to a discussion on "The Function of the Universities in Relation to Agriculture." Sir Daniel Hall, chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, was the principal speaker. He is of opinion that agriculture students and courses fall into three groups: at certain universities, notably Oxford and Cambridge, many of the future landowners of the country form a considerable proportion of the students. For them a degree course in agriculture is required which will awaken in them a sense of their responsibilities and opportunities. Then there are the men who actually intend to farm; they require a technical training, which might be more conveniently given at a university than at a separate agricultural college, where they would miss that opportunity of widening their knowledge which contact with students of different subjects in a university affords. Finally there are teachers, scientific workers and officials, whose training should be based on a degree course in arts or in pure science. Sir Daniel thinks that there are sufficient agricultural colleges already in Britain and that each should pick out its special group and cater for its needs. In the discussion which followed, Mr. M. J. R. Dunstan, principal of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, suggested a round-table conference of university authorities in Great Britain to decide the scope and training for an agricultural degree.

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Early Science at Oxford.

May 18, 1686. Some of this Society having considered that place of Tacquet's Geometry, mentioned in the Minutes of the Dublin Society of March ye 8th. observed that there is this difference betwixt Mr. Caswell's first Problem and Tacquet's; viz. that in each of Tacquet's Triangles there is one side and 2 Angles given, which is an ordinary case of Trigonometry: But none of Mr. Caswell's Triangles has one side and 2 angles, or 2 sides and one angle, or 3 sides given; and this makes a greater difference in the Solutions than that mentioned, in those minutes.

Then was read an account of the Torricellian experiment, tried on the Mountaines of Snowdon, Cader Idris, &c. with the heights of those mountains taken by Mr. Caswell.

An account was given of *four children* born at a birth, at Marston near Oxford, the last Mounth.

May 19, 1685. A Letter from Dr. Mark, Physitian to the Elector of Brandenburg, and Member of this Society, dated Potsdam, March 28, 1685, was read; It brought an account how well his Electorall Highnesse is pleased with ye design of this Society. His Highnesse having commanded Dr. Mark to continue a strict correspondence with us, and promising him assistance, by furnishing him with matter to communicate, when his own stock shall be defective. The Elector also commanded him to enquire concerning ye Concha, which affords ye Purple, and of ye way of making Amianthus-paper, and to procure both, if possible. He has also given orders for some of ye Philosophical Transactions to be sent over. The Society ordered their humble thanks to be returned to Dr. Mark for this welcome newes; for the Honour done them in it; and for (the occasion of it) ye character he has been pleased to give of this Society to the Elector; and that answers be speedily sent to ye queries in ye Letter; and that ye Letter itself be carefully preserved among ye papers of this Society.

Proceeding then to other matters, two specimens of bookes, now in the presse, were shewn us; one a History of Fishes, written, some years since, by Mr. Willoughby, and Mr. Ray; the other, a History of Plants, by Mr. Ray, after his new method.

A Sort of Earth, dug at Hogsdon, 8 or 10 foot deep, of an Aromaticall smell, was communicated by Dr. Plot; who inform'd us, that the Water under this Earth is found Bituminous, from whence, he conjectures, ye Earth may be supposed to have this flavour.

May 20, 1687. Mr. President was pleas'd to communicate a letter from Mr. Halley, which gives an account of Mr. Newton's Book *de Systemate Mundi* now in ye presse, giving an account of ye reasons of ye Celestial motions &c.; and of Mr. Hooks finding ye meridian line with great exactnesse by the help of a Small constellation near ye Pole.—Mr. President also communicated a Letter written by him in answer to Mr. Hally's, giving an account of ye reasons, why he can not be of Mr. Hooke his opinion, concerning the figure of ye earth.

May 22, 1688. Mr. Molyneux sent an account of the Inhabitants of the Barony of Forth in the County of Wexford, who are the Progeny of the first English Planters that came over with Fitzstephen and conquered Ireland in Henry zds Time. Till the times of their late confusions in Ireland (he says) they retain'd in great Measure their Antient Language, neither good English nor Irish, but easier understood by a perfect Englis man then Irish. That till of late they allways kept their Marriages intire amongst themselves.