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University and Educational Intelligence.

THE twenty-fifth session of the work of the Sir John Cass Technical Institute was inaugurated on October 4, when an address was delivered by Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield, Bart. Before calling upon Sir Charles to deliver the inaugural address, the chairman of the Governors, the Rev. J. F. Marr, referred to the resignation of Dr. Keane, who had been principal for almost a quarter of a century, the appointment of Mr. Geo. Patchin as his successor, the generous support given to the work by the important companies connected with the fermentation and petroleum industries, and the gratifying record of university successes; one student has been awarded a D.Sc. for a thesis on research work carried out in the department of chemistry. Further facilities for study are being provided during the session, including a more advanced course of lectures in colloids and an advanced course of lectures on petroleum technology.

ONE of the papers read at the recent conference at Balliol College, Öxford, of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux was entitled "Instruction in Bibliographical Technique for University Students," by Mr. Harold E. Potts, chairman of Convocation of the University of Liverpool. He urges that all students should be given some instruction in the art of using a library intelligently. It is not intended that they should spend the time when they should be working in the laboratories in reading in the library, but that they should acquire the habit of looking for the original sources of the information given in lectures and text-books. This matter is largely in the hands of the professors, who would do well, from time to time, to recommend their pupils to read certain original papers as an example of how discoveries are made. The habit of looking at original papers instead of at text-books and abstracts is one that cannot be acquired too early. The student will be astonished to find that some mis-statements have been quoted from text-book to text-book throughout long periods before the error was discovered. At the same time it must be confessed that a student may easily spend too much time in this way to the neglect of experimental work.

WHILE the universities and university colleges in Great Britain usually possess good libraries, the technical institutes and colleges are, as a rule, very poorly supplied. In most cases the sums allowed for the upkeep of their libraries are very small. Principal J. F. Hudson, of the Huddersfield Technical College, in a paper contributed to the recent Conference of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux at Balliol College, Oxford, argues that the provision of a suitable supply of literature should be regarded as an essential part of the equipment of every scientific and technical department of a college. Most local colleges specialise in one or more departments, such as woollen textiles, rubber technology, or pottery. These schools should develop special libraries of peculiar value which should be made accessible to all who are interested in these subjects. Principal Hudson suggests that at least I per cent. of the annual expenditure on a technical institute should be assigned to the support of the library. He refers to a letter in NATURE for May 22, 1926, in which a correspondent asks what he can do with old scientific books which he no longer needs. As will be seen from Mr. Headicar's letter in our issue of July 3, the Universities' Library for Central Europe has taken up this problem and has arranged to act as a clearing house for the disposal of scientific periodicals.

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