

under the headings: national culture, League of Nations, civilization of all nations, general progress of mankind, equality among the races and nationalities, the World Court, international treaties and guarantees, international pacifism, religious tolerance, history of labour and civilization, natural laws, man and the world, conditions of happy, peaceful life, etc. Parental co-operation with the school authorities is legally provided for by means of parents' councils. A noteworthy feature of the system is the clarity with which the objectives of education are set forth, not merely with reference to the educational process as a whole but also specifically for each course.

Science News a Century Ago

Death of Dr. William Henry, F.R.S.

ON September 2, 1836, Dr. William Henry, the eminent chemist, died at Manchester at the age of sixty-two years. The son of Thomas Henry (1734-1816), one of the founders and the first secretary of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, he was born at Manchester on December 12, 1774, and attended the Manchester Grammar School. For several years he was secretary and assistant to Dr. Thomas Percival (1740-1804), the first president of the Literary and Philosophical Society, but, when twenty-one years of age, spent a session at the University of Edinburgh, where he was one of the last pupils of Black. On his return to Manchester, Henry assisted his father in his chemical business, wrote memoirs and lectured, and in 1801 published his "Epitome of Chemistry", which was enlarged and became "The Elements of Experimental Chemistry". It was said that this was the first English work on chemistry which with considerable literary merit combined scientific accuracy. It went through eleven editions. His experiments on the absorption of gases by water were made while he was writing these books. In 1805 he returned to Edinburgh, and two years later was granted the degree of M.D. The remainder of his life was spent in Manchester, where he counted among his friends Dalton.

Henry was elected fellow of the Royal Society in 1808, and in the same year received the Copley Medal. His original contributions to science included papers on medical subjects such as diabetes and cholera, and biographical sketches of Priestley, Davy and Wollaston. At intervals during his life he suffered severely from an accident received when a child, and his death on September 2, 1836, was due to nervous irritation and insomnia. He was a refined, eloquent and accomplished man, and his bust and portrait are preserved by the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society of which he was an ardent supporter. His life was written by his son, Dr. W. C. Henry.

The British Association at Bristol

SUMMARIZING the results of the Bristol meeting of the British Association, the *Athenæum* of September 3, 1836, said: "Having now read the Reports; and calmly and dispassionately surveyed the entire proceedings, we are of opinion, that the results of the Bristol Meeting are most satisfactory: rather more than 1,300 members were present, many of the papers read were very valuable, many important questions

were discussed, and the Committee have been enabled to devote no less than £2,700, in further aid of science and scientific research. These are beneficial effects not to be questioned. It appears, however, that the Association does not work to the entire satisfaction of some influential members . . . who . . . are of opinion, that some proceedings in particular Sections had a taint of quackery . . . and they are in consequence disposed to limit the sphere of inquiry, or restrict the numbers. Now, we concur generally as to the possible tendency of the Association; such an opportunity for personal display and cheap advertisement will not be lost by the far-seeing; but the remedy suggested would be, in our opinion, a still more mischievous error. There can be no such thing as an oligarchy of science, which these restrictions would tend to create. We take leave to suggest the most scrupulous care in the election of Chairmen to the several Sections . . . and a great deal more energy and resolution on the part of the Sectional Committee; the one (the Committee) should be foreseeing and directing, and the other (the Chairman) the controlling mind of the Association. . . ."

Botanical Society of London

ON September 3, 1836, the *Mechanics' Magazine* said: "A number of botanists, amateurs, etc., have recently held several meetings at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, Strand, for the purpose of forming themselves into a society bearing the above name. . . . Among the leading objects the Society propose are, the advancement of botanical science in general; the particular cultivation of descriptive and systematic botany; the formation of a library, herbarium and museum; the reading of original papers, extracts and translations; the exchange of specimens with other societies or individual collectors; and every other available means that may promote the object of the Society". Commenting on this, the journal said: "We are glad to find, among the mighty mass of bricks and mortar, ladies and gentlemen so ardently devoted to so healthy and so enduring a pursuit as botany".

The Flora of Ireland

IN 1836 appeared the "Flora Hibernica: comprising the Flowering Plants, Ferns, etc., of Ireland; arranged according to the Natural System", by J. T. Mackay, who from 1806 until 1862 was curator of the Botanical Garden, Trinity College, Dublin. In a notice of the book in the *Athenæum* of September 3, 1836, a reviewer said: "We congratulate our Irish friends upon the publication of this work. It is most creditable to the naturalists of Ireland that the first general account of the plants of the island should appear in a form corresponding to the actual state of science elsewhere. . . ."

"The character of the classes and orders are taken chiefly from the writings of De Candolle and Lindley; and the arrangement employed by the last-mentioned botanist, in his 'Synopsis of the British Flora' is followed, with few exceptions. The character of the genera and species are chiefly from Hooker's 'British Flora'; for the matter relating to Mosses, Hepaticæ, and Lichens, the author is indebted to Dr. Taylor, and for the arrangement of the Algæ to Mr. W. H. Harvey, both of whom are naturalists well known for their acquaintance with those difficult groups."