

these activities were not left to an able but overburdened minority, and to a still smaller but very vocal opposition who find in the Vice-Chancellor and 'the authorities' the source of all their troubles. "But that is almost inherent in all 'day universities' in huge cities where two hours or more have to be spent daily in coming and going. It may require another generation to pass before the truth that a university education is a life together and not merely a learning together is grasped by every fresher at entry." The number of students which showed a steady increase until 1933-34 has since shown a progressive though small decline. This decline is viewed with some anxiety and is regarded as probably due to the fall in the birth-rate, the forecast being made that by 1955 the number of students may have fallen to not more than 1,200 or 1,300, or perhaps less. It is noted that about 45-50 per cent of the students hold scholarships or grants from public funds which enable them to take a university course, and that about 48 per cent started their education in an elementary school.

Obstacles to Teaching

In her presidential address on April 16 to the National Union of Teachers, Mrs. E. V. Parker, a teacher in a London County Council school, dwelt on those unfavourable conditions which hamper the work of teachers eager to contribute to the salvaging of civilization. The generous ideals of the Hadow Report, foreshadowing the elimination of social class distinctions in a unified system of public education and "freedom for every child to attain its full stature", have not been realized; nor can they be without provision by the community of proper material environment in school and home and drastic reduction of the size of classes. The freedom of the teacher is threatened with partisan interference which seeks "to sap and undermine by labelling many of our positive educational activities as propaganda". In the junior school the incubus of the external examination from which elementary schools were rescued in 1895 has reimposed itself as an instrument for selection for free secondary school places, which should be the birthright of every British child. In the new senior schools a large measure of freedom is enjoyed, but they need levelling up to the standard of the older secondary schools in point of leaving age, staffing and amenities. Meanwhile, it is essential that the last months before the child leaves school should be devoted to an earnest effort to gather up the loose threads of knowledge, to give meaning to all the work already done, making plain its applicability to the problems of life and providing the stimulus that will result in a continuance of interest and effort for self-education.

Japanese Nationalism and Intellectual Freedom

JAPAN won her high place among world powers in little more than a generation by a will to accept and assimilate ideas from outside her own culture, which was a cause of wonder and admiration among all civilized peoples. It is, therefore, all the more remarkable that this liberal attitude should now

have been abandoned in favour of a spirit which interprets the springs of nationalism in the narrowest sense. A commission, it is reported by the Tokyo correspondent of *The Times* in the issue of April 21, is engaged in investigating the books in use in the universities of Japan with the view of determining whether they are fully in accord with the national spirit. Among books which it has been decided to ban are Mill "On Liberty", Bertrand Russell's "Roads to Freedom", George Gissing's "Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft", "Tess of the D'Urvilles" by Thomas Hardy and "Ulysses" by James Joyce. The choice might seem peculiar, and, in fact, to English-speaking peoples almost capricious, even when it is added that the principles of selection exclude all books which encourage liberalism, offend morals, describe excessive cruelty, or whose authors have attacked Japan. With the exception of the ground last-named, which may or may not be regarded as excusable, such a policy seems not only over solicitous for the intellectual weakening, but even admirably calculated to produce the stunted judgment which in the long run will make for national weakness rather than strength.

The London Television Service

THE paper on the London Television Service read to the Institution of Electrical Engineers on April 21 by T. C. Macnamara and D. C. Birkinshaw describes the television station recently built by the British Broadcasting Corporation in a part of the Alexandra Palace, London, N. The reports of the reception of the transmissions have in general been encouraging. The range of the station, originally estimated to be about 25 miles, has proved to be considerably farther in most cases; good reception can be obtained up to about 35 miles. Reports of visual receptions have been received from Brighton, Southend, Cambridge and Bedford, the distances of which from the station are 40-60 miles. In these cases reception took place under exceptionally favourable conditions. It has been found that in the ultra-short waves used for television, the interference due to electro-medical apparatus used for high-frequency diathermy is sometimes serious. For example, a North London hospital situated about half a mile from the Alexandra Palace has a spark diathermy machine which when used completely 'jams' the reception of the five-metre radio link transmitter at the Palace. The whole of the walls and ceiling of the room were covered with aluminium foil 5 mm. in thickness, applied with a paper backing after the fashion of ordinary wall paper. At one end of the room, which was open, a partition covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mesh chicken wire was erected and good electrical connexion made between the aluminium foil on the ceiling and walls and the chicken-wire. A similar screen was placed over the window and another was laid on the floor underneath the usual rubber floor material. The treatment effected complete suppression of the interference. If the screened door in the partition was opened by only a few inches, the interference was almost as bad as with the unscreened room. This proves the necessity of taking thorough measures.