

With the outbreak of the Second World War came an upheaval, both bodily and spiritually. Bedford College was evacuated to Cambridge, and though its students and staff appreciated their association with the ancient University, the strain on the staff was considerable in the crowded conditions, the disembodied state of the College and the hectic atmosphere of war. The wisdom of this evacuation was justified when the main building (occupied at the time by the B.B.C.), one science block and the dining hall were destroyed by enemy action in the great fire raid of May 10, 1941.

In 1944 the College returned to London. Readjustments had to be made, as about a third of the buildings had been demolished and many more women were clamouring for a university education. To ease the accommodation of its now 830 students, three of the stately houses in Regent's Park have been acquired.

To-day, the signs of devastation are receding and progress in rebuilding is at last apparent; the dining hall and new mathematics department over it have been in use since October 1948, and though the north science block will be rebuilt later, the main building, it is hoped, will open its doors in 1951.

In the hundred years of its life, 15,000 students have entered the College, two-fifths of these in the last twenty-five years. The majority, particularly of the arts graduates, have entered the teaching profession, and not only are there many principals of training colleges and headmistresses in Great Britain, but also in other parts of the world, including Australia, New Zealand, India, Ceylon, South Africa, West Africa, Nigeria, Tanganyika, Jamaica, Malaya, China and Japan.

It was in its Victorian era that Bedford began to provide leaders in education in the two vice-principals and later a principal of Newnham College, a vice-principal of Somerville College and the founder and first headmistress of Roedean School. From this period, too, came Miss Phillipa Fawcett, who, having been placed above the Senior Wrangler, afterwards served in the Transvaal Education Department and returned later to serve for thirty years as assistant to the Education Officer of the London County Council. The first woman barrister was a student of the College in 1857, and in 1880 another graduate became an alderman of the London County Council. Incidentally, the first woman to be made a professor of the University of London was a member of the College staff, and it is to be recorded with pride that the first woman vice-chancellor of a university within the Commonwealth, the present vice-chancellor of the University of London, is one of Bedford's professors. The science graduates are largely engaged in teaching or research. One of the professors of the University of London is a Bedford graduate, and another is professor of chemistry in a Government college in South Africa. Many are university readers, lecturers and demonstrators, and one of the first two women to be elected as Fellows of the Royal Society was a Bedford graduate. Interesting, too, is the fact that at the present time more than one-third of the women members of one of the learned societies of Great Britain graduated from the College.

Many past students have turned to librarianship and have become chief librarians of university colleges and also of public and other libraries. The College has sent out many pioneers connected with health and social services, providing one of the first women inspectors under the National Health Act (1913) and the first woman factory inspector in

Sweden. To-day large numbers are engaged in social welfare. Bedford has also provided a pioneer in women's employment who, during a distinguished Civil Service career, became director of women's employment, H.M. Treasury. Many past students have played their part in other spheres, in journalism, on the stage and as authors, including at least one well-known novelist.

It is to women's education that the College has, perhaps, made its greatest contribution, not only through the representatives in the teaching profession already mentioned, but in the direction of educational films and educational programmes of the B.B.C.

Many have given much to Bedford College and she is deeply sensible of the debt. With the blessing of her patron, H.M. Queen Mary, on her centenary, she stands to-day a proud College of the University of London—the oldest women's university college in the world.

OBITUARIES

Dr. Melville Hocken

DR. MELVILLE HOCKEN told me, at his hospitable dinner-table in 1946, that he was born at Cardiff on January 10, 1888, when his parents were cruising off the Welsh coast—not in Cornwall, as has been stated elsewhere. He lived with his father, a Thames pilot, at Gravesend from the age of four to sixteen, during which years he discovered mole crickets in Kent and evinced an innate bent for biology, fostered by Moseley's 1892 *Challenger* voyage, received as a school prize in 1903. His first medical appointment was at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital. In 1914 he joined the R.A.M.C. as senior medical officer at the Martlesham Experimental Station near Ipswich, and later served at Filby on the Norfolk Broads. In 1920, after a short time in Ipswich (like Thomas Muffet in 1585), he moved to the little Suffolk town of Halesworth, where he later bought Adams's commodious brewery house, with its excellent Charles I staircase of appliqué work. Practice so thrived that in 1938 he took two partners; and always another and very true one was his wife, Miss Winifred Triniman, a Cornish farmer's daughter.

For many years, leisure for purely biological study was lacking: Hocken had his way to make in the world. But the urge was innate, if not inherent. He had studied the British Tortricid moths to some extent before the First World War, and in 1935 his interest in them revived. In 1941 I pointed out the need for investigating the British Tipulidæ (crane-flies); he promptly joined the Entomological Society of London, secured its publications upon the subject and set himself, with characteristic ardour though already feeling bronchial trouble, to work out the local species. After four years assiduous study in every spare moment, and assistance from other members of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society, which he and Mrs. Hocken had joined in 1936, he published in its annual *Transactions* (pp. 184–98; 1945) a detailed résumé of the county's 151 known species, out of the 284 that occur in Britain; this was no mean achievement in so short a period. For the rest, he was possessed of a sound general knowledge of both flora and fauna.

In October 1946 Hocken was compelled by growing ill-health to retire from practice, and he went to his ever beloved "West Country"; and he died there, at St. Austell, on April 16. CLAUDE MORLEY