

Fellows would have a special responsibility, if only by reason of their freedom from undergraduate teaching, to play a major part in advanced teaching and graduate studies, and the undertaking of major pieces of research.

A second main difference is that Nuffield is a graduate college. The College may have not more than forty Students at any one time, and these must be reading for the degrees of D.Phil., B.Litt. or B.Sc., or be otherwise engaged in or contemplating approved research. A purely graduate college is, of course, something of an experiment in Great Britain. It is particularly striking that the development should have taken place in a university whose main pride, and rightly so, is in its honours schools. But this year there are about a thousand students reading for advanced degrees in Oxford, the great majority being in medicine or science, so that while increasing the numbers passing through the various honours schools and maintaining the same high standard, the University is also making a major contribution to training of research workers. In medicine and the physical and natural sciences, the graduate finds a base and a place for meeting other researchers in his broad field in the hospital and the laboratories. In social studies he is liable to find himself rather isolated, particularly if he did not take his first degree in Oxford. He has his supervisor, but he does not fit very easily into the college of which he is a member, for the great majority of the other students will be reading for their first degree. By being also associated with Nuffield College, however, he is brought into close contact with other advanced students in social studies. Already, by providing daily lunches at which Fellows and students eat together, by holding special seminars and in various other ways, the College is going some way to provide a corporate life for graduate students in social studies. When at some future date the buildings are complete, there will also be a residential centre.

The main problem at the moment is to find first-class graduates capable of undertaking advanced work in social studies and to keep hold of them. The College offers studentships which may be up to £300, according to needs. At present, however, there is a very heavy demand from Government departments, industry, the universities, and from many other quarters for those who have just graduated with good honours degrees in economics, etc. In many cases, when we have been fortunate enough to get hold of first-class graduates, they have gone off within one or two terms to some attractive university appointment. This is only to be expected at the moment, and we have been glad to have had such capable young men associated with us, even for a short time. It is probably true to say that many of those and of our existing Students would have been lost for university work if Nuffield College had not been able to give them financial aid, for though there are many scholarships and grants available to undergraduates, there is little money for the student who wishes to continue beyond his first degree. It is to be expected that as the present pressure of demand declines, more students will be available for post-graduate work in social studies.

One final point: the founder in his wisdom saw that research in social studies might well be arid unless the College was brought into direct and close contact with practical affairs. There is thus the phrase in the statute governing the College: "to encourage research . . . especially by making easier

the co-operation of academic and non-academic persons". This co-operation is helped by the College having visiting Fellows, chosen for their ability to further research in the College by virtue of "their practical experience in the professions or in industry or commerce". They are full members of the College and its governing body. At the moment the College has six visiting Fellows: Lord Beveridge, Mr. Harold Clay, Sir Geoffrey Heyworth, Mr. Herbert Morrison, Sir Raymond Streat and Sir John Henry Woods. It is of great value to have such distinguished men of affairs as these associated with the College and willing to give help and advice in the studies being undertaken there. Another method of co-operation, which owes so much to Prof. G. D. H. Cole and Lord Lindsay, is the private conferences held from time to time. The College invites some forty or fifty people drawn from industry and commerce, government and public affairs and the universities to discuss one or more questions of current importance. During the summer two such week-end conferences are to be held to consider certain problems raised by large-scale organisations and the nationalized industries.

THE GENETICAL SOCIETY

THE Genetical Society holds its hundredth meeting in Cambridge on June 30 and July 1. A number of foreign guests are being invited to the meeting, at which it is planned to present a picture of the growth of genetics and its scope in Britain today.

The Society was founded in 1919 by William Bateson, its first president being the Earl of Balfour, whose name is also associated with genetics in the title of the Arthur Balfour chair at Cambridge. Lord Balfour held the office of president until his death in 1930, when he was succeeded by Prof. R. C. Punnett. Since that time it has been customary for the presidency to be held by a professional geneticist for a limited number of years.

The aim of the Society is "to promote the Advancement of Genetics and intercourse among persons interested in that science", and it accepts to membership those who are or have been engaged in genetical research or teaching in the applied genetical fields of plant and animal breeding, or are in other ways attached to the study of the subject. Ordinary membership is thus in no way narrowly restrictive, and, indeed, it now stands at nearly two hundred. In addition, there are twenty overseas members who between them cover most parts of the world. The Society also elects to honorary membership eminent geneticists both from Great Britain and from overseas.

The hundredth meeting is being held just thirty years after the Society was founded—an average of some three meetings a year. These meetings normally take one or other of three forms. For some of them members submit papers dealing with their own researches. Others are organised as symposia on subjects of general interest, contributions being arranged by invitation. These symposia have often been organised and held in collaboration with some other learned society. Thus, genes and chromosome behaviour have been discussed jointly with the Society for Experimental Biology, disease resistance as it relates to plant and animal breeding with the Association of Applied Biologists, the genetics of fungi with the Mycological Society, and micro-organisms with the

Biochemical Society. The third form, which is generally adopted for the summer meetings, is that of visits to genetical laboratories or other places of interest to geneticists. On these occasions primary emphasis is placed on seeing the work in progress and the methods which are used there.

The Genetical Society played a large part in the Seventh International Genetical Congress held in Edinburgh in 1939. It has also always taken the opportunity of inviting geneticists from overseas, who might be visiting Britain, to attend its meetings and to read papers. In this way many eminent geneticists have been the guests of the Society, including the two Nobel Laureates in genetics, T. H. Morgan and H. J. Muller. Since the War a still more positive international policy has been adopted. Scarcely, in fact, was the War over before, in November 1945, the Society held a conference to which were invited geneticists from most of the western European countries and from the United States. Accounts were presented of the progress of genetical work in Britain during the war years, and the foreign visitors described activities in their own countries. Coming when it did, this meeting was appreciated by all as being not only a very happy occasion, but also one of the greatest value in renewing personal exchange of views, and going far to remedy the difficulties caused by lack of free communication during the war years. A further and similarly successful international conference was arranged in 1948 on genetics in relation to cancer problems, this time in co-operation with the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The history of the Genetical Society is one of steadily increasing membership and steadily widening interest. The growing importance of genetics for other branches of science has been reflected in the Society's co-operation with other bodies in joint discussions. The growing strength of genetics has equally been reflected in the international conferences that have been held. Genetics has, indeed, changed and grown profoundly in the last thirty years, and the process is accelerating rather than declining. The Genetical Society has a great part to play in these changes if it is to serve the science in the future as it has done in the past. It must not merely continue, but strengthen, its efforts to combine the well-established function of promoting intercourse among its members, and the special branches of the science that they practise, with the newer and broader purpose of presenting genetics as one of the focal points not only of biology as a whole, but also of agriculture, medicine and the non-biological sciences; and it must do so on no narrow national basis. The developments, especially of the last few years, show that the Society is aware of these growing responsibilities. Looking back over its first hundred meetings, it may justly face the future with confidence in its ability to meet the needs of the time.

OBITUARIES

Sir Wyndham Dunstan, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.

SIR WYNDHAM ROWLAND DUNSTAN, director of the Imperial Institute during 1903-24, who died on April 20, aged eighty-seven, rendered great service to the British overseas countries. Educated at Bedford School and abroad, Dunstan commenced a notable scientific career as an assistant in chemistry

to Prof. Th. Redwood at the School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society and succeeded him in 1885 as professor of chemistry, a position held for ten years, during which, in 1887, he became director of the Society's new research laboratories. Simultaneously, he held the post of demonstrator in the University laboratories, Oxford (1884), and in 1885 was appointed University lecturer in chemistry in its relation to medicine. The medical bias of his work was confirmed by his appointment to the professorship of chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital (1892-1900). Dunstan's organising ability led him to serve as secretary of the Chemical Society (1893-1903), and he was a vice-president of the Society during 1904-06. He was a member of Council of the Royal Society, and at the York meeting of the British Association in 1906 was president of the chemistry and agriculture section.

During the earlier years, Dunstan published many papers on the chemistry of drugs; but his major original work was done largely in collaboration with other workers, notably Prof. J. T. Cash, T. A. Henry, E. Goulding, F. H. Carr, H. Brown and A. E. Andrews. Much of the work, for example, that on the pharmacology of aconitine and its derivatives (with Cash), the Indian aconites, podophyllum, and *Hyoscyamus* alkaloids, was still of pharmacological and medical interest; but the research with Goulding on oximes was purely chemical in interest, and that in association with Henry on cyanogenesis in plants was a new field of much scientific and practical importance.

Sir Wyndham's real life-work, however, in which his abilities as man of affairs had full play, was done at the Imperial Institute, which was founded to investigate and display the raw materials of British overseas countries with a view to their commercial utilization. He was appointed director of the Scientific and Technical Department in 1896, and succeeded Sir Frederick Abel in the full directorship of the Institute in 1903. Possessed of clear insight, decision and driving power, he recognized promising lines of work, and, with the help of a staff devoted to the mission of the Institute, greatly extended the laboratory and intelligence services, established technical advisory committees and carried through investigations which have proved of great and lasting value to the overseas countries in developing their natural resources. Particularly valuable work was done in connexion with the much-needed extension of cotton cultivation, and Dunstan's reports on "British Cotton Cultivation" (1904 and 1908) and on "Cotton Cultivation of the World" (1910) summarized the position at those times. He was president of the International Association of Tropical Agriculture in 1910 and of the International Congress of Tropical Agriculture in 1914. In 1916 the circumstances of the War suggested an inquiry into the possibilities of increased use in Britain of certain Indian raw materials, and, at the invitation of the Secretary of State, Dunstan organised, through the Imperial Institute Committee for India, an inquiry into the subject, which resulted in a series of valuable reports. On the mineral side, Sir Wyndham's official "Report on the Coal Supply of India" was published in 1898. At his instance, and under the auspices of the Imperial Institute, Colonial mineral surveys were established in Nigeria, Nyasaland and Ceylon, which had important practical results and laid the foundations of the present Colonial geological surveys. Meanwhile, the quarterly *Bulletin of the Imperial*