

Dundee, to which the 1889 Act led, from that prescribed by the Act for the University in St. Andrews, and to which the Commission attributes the main responsibility for the controversy and misunderstandings. No real solution, it is held, is possible while this constitutional structure, with its unworkable administrative organization, remains unchanged. Nevertheless, the survey revealed little reason for opinion in Dundee to be dissatisfied with the physical expansion of University College in the past five years, and, following a close analysis of the present situation, which takes full account of the intangible factors, the Commission rejects as firmly as Lord Cooper the proposal for a separate University in Dundee.

The reasoned argument which leads the Royal Commission to reject the idea of separation as neither necessary nor desirable is based on an examination of counter proposals which should at least mollify any disappointment which may be felt. Academic support for the proposal was almost non-existent; but the Commission, pointing out that it is an open question how far the sense of inferiority from which Dundee's local patriotism suffers is a survival from the unhappy past to which both Dundee and St. Andrews cling for different reasons, recognizes that the habit of mind which goes with this feeling is in some ways the most important element in the situation. Nevertheless, the Commission sees no case at all, on grounds of population, geography or communications, for placing a new University in Dundee, within fifteen miles of one University and ninety of three others, all distinguished in tradition and scholarship. Careful examination of the argument based on the industrial needs of Dundee revealed no serious discouragement in the field of applied science, even under the present unsatisfactory organization, while on the grounds of student numbers and the support of fundamental research the Commission is convinced that a new and vigorous academic development which would attract all the support the city can offer is possible within a remodelled University of St. Andrews without risk of discrimination against development in Dundee.

The major part of the report deals with the reorganization of the University to provide one governing body and one supreme authority in academic policy; it also includes a discussion of the changes in teaching policy which would become possible. In the early years of reorganization, it is emphasized that the frank acceptance and faithful implementation of detailed recommendations by an outside body offers the only prospect of agreement on academic policy. It is hoped that prompt government action where legislation is required will be followed by equally prompt and reasonable action in the academic sphere. Points of criticism will no doubt be found in matters of detail. It is not detail, however, but wise and early unification that is important, and the Tedder Report, offering a fair and just solution, provides the opportunity for a new start and for laying aside the dissensions of an unhappy half-century.

Broadly speaking, the type of union recommended is similar to, but rather closer than, that of the Durham and Newcastle Colleges. Subordinated to a single supreme authority, so constituted that it can be trusted to deal fairly with university education in both St. Andrews and Dundee, would be two College Councils, one for the new college in Dundee and one for the United College in St. Andrews. The heads of

the two colleges would be designated 'provosts', and the principal of the University, and not the rector, would be chairman of the University Court, which would have the ultimate financial control of the whole University, and he should be provided with official accommodation in Dundee as well as his normal residence in St. Andrews. The Commission expresses the hope that if effect is given to its recommendations, the Queen would be pleased to allow the College in Dundee "to bear a name indicative of Royal favour", and it recommends that all possible steps should be taken to mark by outward and visible signs the new relationship of the University to Dundee and every opportunity taken of showing that Dundee as much as St. Andrews is heir to the traditions and resources of the University. The constitutional position of the Library Committee should be maintained, but with the added responsibility for the development of library facilities in Dundee. A reorientation of the Arts Departments in the new College in Dundee is recommended, and incorporation in the University, as part of the new College in Dundee, of the Dundee School of Economics. Postgraduate work in social sciences should also be developed in Dundee. No formal link between the Dundee Technical College and the University is proposed, and a first responsibility of the new College Council in Dundee would be an examination of the possibilities of development in engineering. The Commission dissents strongly from the view that problems arising from the duplication of teaching in Dundee and St. Andrews can be solved by making a head of department responsible for teaching given in both centres. Here, as in such recommendations as the removal of differences in the standards of admission for students, and of the discouragement by Scottish bursary regulations of those who wish themselves to bear the extra cost of coming from a distance to study in the University of St. Andrews, the Commission is doubtless seeking not only to avoid discords which divided loyalties and irrational disparities can cause, but also to afford the fullest possible opportunity for dissensions to die down and a wiser and more magnanimous spirit to close an unhappy chapter.

SOUTH-EASTERN UNION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

ANNUAL CONGRESS

AT the invitation of the Eastbourne Natural History and Archæological Society, the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies held its fifty-seventh annual congress at Eastbourne during April 24-27 under the presidency of James Fisher. The local committee was under the chairmanship of T. E. Rodd, with Miss M. A. Ash as local secretary.

At the 'young naturalists' evening' a wide range of questions were answered by a panel of experts and prizes given for the best questions asked. The winning questions were those regarding the persistency of jackdaws in their attempts to acquire a nesting-site and the hatching of robin eggs after being found cold. Colour films were shown of bird life. In his presidential address to the Union, Mr. Fisher dealt with the population and distribution of land birds in

the British Isles, explaining the logarithmic method of plotting counts and the deductions made from the graphs.

The Archæological Section of the Union was addressed by its president, A. Cecil Piper, who discussed "The History of a Downland Village—Alfriston". He traced the development of the village from prehistoric and early historic times, proved by finds of flint and bronze implements, cinerary urns, and British and Roman coins. The Saxons had a considerable settlement, and excavation has brought to light a Saxon cemetery consisting of a hundred and twenty graves. After the Norman Conquest Alfriston came within the rape of Pevensey. Mr. Piper followed the history to the present century, mentioning its importance during the Napoleonic wars and that, at one time, the main occupation of the inhabitants was smuggling. The church was described in detail, and mention made of the Old Clergy House, the first building acquired by the National Trust, in 1896. The president of the Zoological Section, Dr. W. S. Bristowe, spoke on "The Spiders of Islands"; he related his experiences, during collecting, on islands as far apart as the antarctic and the tropics, and explained that, broadly speaking, the number of species diminishes relatively with the area of the islands. In the unavoidable absence of Prof. J. W. Haslop-Harrison, Francis Rose addressed the Botanical Section on "The Vegetation of the Weald", treating his subject from the ecological point of view. The subject of Prof. P. Allen's presidential address to the Geological Section was "Our Chalky Heritage", in which he reviewed the present knowledge of chalk obtained by modern technique, including the electron microscope. He mentioned that the finest chalk in Britain is at Beachy Head, where there is practically no grit or clay and approximately 99 per cent calcium carbonate. At the time of its deposition, the water was salty, clear and more than a hundred fathoms deep, with a warmer climate prevailing than that of the present day.

G. S. Hutchings, warden of Juniper Hall Field Centre, Headley Valley, spoke on "Regional Survey and the S.-E. Union", in which, after discussing the history of the movement within the Union, he outlined proposals for the rejuvenation of the work. Although considerable investigations have been done on the classification of types of plant communities and their distribution, there is in Great Britain no general map of the distribution of types of vegetation. It would be a credit to botanical science, said Mr. Hutchings, if a map could be published showing the distribution of types of vegetation, including a classification worked out, in terms of their ecological status, of lands predominantly in agricultural or industrial use. Two Wealden transect belts were suggested by Mr. Hutchings for survey, because their north-south orientation brings them each within a vertical column of the 2½-in. scale map sheets. One would be from the Thames gravel plain at Molesey via the Mole gap to the coast plain at Worthing. The other runs from the Thames inner estuary at Dartford, through the Central Weald to the South Downs

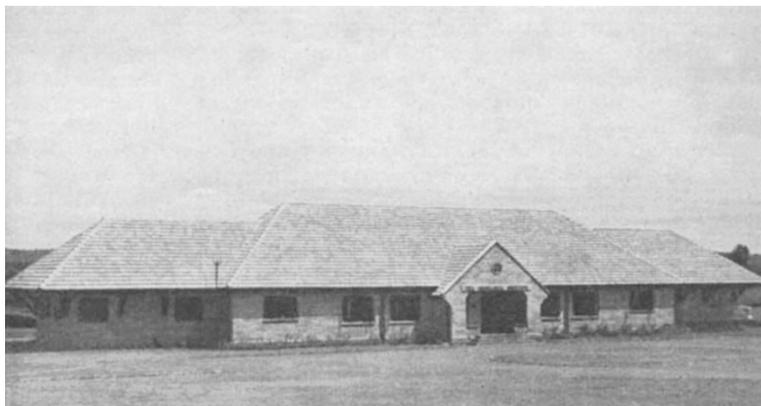
and Cuckmere gap. It may be desirable to produce two distinct maps: one dealing with the physical units, geology, soil, slope, aspect and hydrology; and the other with vegetational, natural and semi-natural plant communities, life communities controlled by man, agricultural land, grazings, planted woodlands, etc.

Some very fine colour 'Kodachrome' slides of local wild-life, prepared and displayed by W. J. C. Murray, were shown by him to members of the Union. The shingle flora and fauna of the Crumbles area was studied by the botanists and ornithologists, who also visited Chailey Common and the Cuckmere Valley from Exeat bridge to the mouth of the river. The archæologists visited the historic and prehistoric sites at Wilmington and Milton Street, the castles and churches at Lewes and Pevensey and the churches at Alfriston and Westham. It is proposed to hold the next congress of the Union in Worthing during May 1953.

THE TEA RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EAST AFRICA OPENING CEREMONY

THE Tea Research Institute of East Africa, the foundation and constitution of which were recorded in *Nature* of August 4, 1951, p. 196, was formally opened at Kericho, Kenya, on March 27 by His Excellency Sir Philip Mitchell, chairman of the East Africa High Commission and Governor of Kenya. The company assembled for the occasion included representatives of the tea industry from the three East African territories, government officials and delegates from the Tea Research Institutes in Ceylon and Nyasaland.

The ceremony was presided over by Dr. B. A. Keen, chairman of the governing body and director of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization. In welcoming the chairman of the High Commission, Dr. Keen briefly recounted the history of the new Institute and paid tribute to the foresight and initiative of the firm of Messrs. Brooke Bond and Co., Ltd., in sponsoring the affairs of the Institute during its formative period, and to the tea boards and associations whose co-operation had made the foundation possible. The Institute, he said, is the first and only research organization in



Tea Research Institute of East Africa, Kericho, Kenya