

SCIENCE

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ENGINEERING SCIENCE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WAR¹

THREE years of anxiety and stress have passed since the last meeting of the British Association. The weight of the struggle which pressed heavily upon us at the time of the Newcastle meeting in 1916 had increased so much in intensity by the spring of 1917 that the council, after consultation with the local committee at Bournemouth, finally decided to cancel the summer meeting of that year. This was the first time in the history of the association that an annual meeting was not held.

We all rejoice to feel that the terrible ordeal through which the whole empire has been passing has now reached its final phases, and that during the period of reorganization, social and industrial, it is possible to resume the annual meetings of the association under happier conditions. We have gladly and with much appreciation accepted the renewed invitation of our friends and colleagues at Bournemouth.

We are gathered together at a time when, after a great upheaval, the elemental conditions of organization of the world are still in flux, and we have to consider how to influence and mould the recrystallization of these elements into the best forms and most economic rearrangements for the benefit of civilization. That the British Association is capable of exerting a great influence in guiding the nation towards advancement in the sciences and arts in the most general sense there can be no ques-

¹ Address of the president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Bournemouth, 1919.