SCIENCE

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THE ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH[1]

THE principles of science are to-day widely spread; systematic scientific training has found an honorable place in the schools and in the colleges; above all, there is the realization that much of human progress is based on scientific inquiry, and at last this is fostered and, in part, financed as a definite unit of national educational policy. Public funds are devoted to provide facilities for those who are competent to pursue scientific investigations, and in this way the state, acting through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has assumed the double responsibility of providing for the advancement of knowledge and for the application of scientific methods to industry. Scientific workers have been given the opportunities they desired, and it remains for us to justify all that has been done. We have to-day glanced briefly at the painful toil and long years of preparation; now it falls to us to sow the first crop and reap the first harvest.

Thanks to the wisdom and foresight of others, it has been possible to frame the government policy in the light of the experience gained with pre-existing research organizations. The pioneer scheme of the kind is that administered by the commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, who since 1890 have awarded research scholarships to selected graduates. When in 1901 Mr. Carnegie's benefaction was applied to the Scottish universities the trustees wisely determined to devote part of the revenues to the provision of research awards which take the form of scholarships, fellowships and research lectureships. These have proved an immense boon to Scottish graduates, and the success of the venture is sufficiently testified by

[1] From the address of the president of Section B—Chemistry, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Hull, September 7, 1922.