

REPORT ON POST-WAR EDUCATION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

A REPORT on post-war university education has been made by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It was prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Maxwell Garnett and some sections have already been published.

A summary of the conclusions of the committee is given in *The Times*, London. It reads:

University entrance scholarships in England and Wales should, in the committee's view, depend more than at present upon a candidate's character as well as upon his knowledge and intellectual qualities. The assessment of deep scholarship should always be supplemented by the assessment of character; and the latter should carry equal weight in the assessment of university-worthiness in the case of a majority of assisted students. Other recommendations are made to overcome the excessive concentration of the upper forms of secondary schools upon the deep study of one or more specialized subjects, to the neglect of the wider study of the world as a whole.

The committee notes the tendency of university studies to split up into a growing number of separate specialisms, lacking any integrating principle and increasingly divorced from the life of the community. Two distinct replanning proposals are made: (1) A type of general degree course, including both natural science and humanities; and (2) including, in the existing specialized schools in natural and applied sciences, courses in the elements of sociology and citizenship. Every undergraduate, it is urged, should acquire some appreciation of the achievements of science and their impact upon daily life.

The relation between universities and government administration is seen to be close and the growth of overspecialization as dangerous to intending civil servants as to any other type of university student. Some form of education designed to facilitate the process of international cooperation is recommended, and courses are also proposed for civil servants after a period of service. The committee is unanimous on the need for university schools of education to play an essential part in the education of all qualified teachers. Educational research and the teaching both of undergraduates and of experienced members of the teaching profession who return for courses of advanced study should be the concern of every university.

The committee holds that it is to state and local assistance that the universities must look in the immediate future for their major development. Large additional expenditure will be needed in many directions, but raising the salaries of university staffs of all grades, at present hopelessly inadequate in competition with the world outside, should be given high priority. At least £1,500 a year at 1938 prices should be paid to all whole-time professors.

Agreeing with the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee that a Universities' Advisory Council should "be established by the universities themselves to consider the whole range of university policy and act as a coordinating

body," the committee adds that the council should be entirely free from government control. This council would make representations to the University Grants Committee. To promote university cooperation on a world scale the committee suggests a World Council of Universities.

Surveying the position of universities in war areas, the committee recommends that the United Nations should require the enemy powers to make full restoration of university property stolen or destroyed.

POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION PLANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

A BUILDING program, which involves an expenditure of more than \$27,500,000, to be undertaken after the war, has been announced by the University of California. The Legislature had already appropriated the sum of \$4,331,000, which will be available as soon as conditions permit construction. At the recent special session the sum of \$24,525,000 additional was set aside for the building program from postwar construction funds, from which appropriations will be made as the university is able to use the money. Another appropriation of \$1,100,000 was made by the Legislature for plans and specifications of the proposed buildings, so that there may be no delay when construction becomes possible. Work on preliminaries already has started, the architects working with a committee on each campus. Details of the sums appropriated are given below.

\$7,375,000 will be spent for buildings, as follows: Hesse Hall addition, engineering, \$100,000; library, \$1,250,000; engineering building, \$1,000,000; School of Public Health, \$1,500,000; chemistry laboratory, \$600,000; jurisprudence building, \$675,000; forestry building, \$600,000; forest products laboratory, \$500,000; anthropology, \$500,000; home economics, \$500,000; insectary, \$50,000; utilities expansion, \$100,000.

At Los Angeles, buildings to cost \$8,500,000 are planned as follows: student health center, \$450,000; student hospital, \$600,000; library, \$750,000; engineering, \$1,250,000; social sciences, \$750,000; life sciences, \$1,000,000; College of Business Administration and Economics, \$750,000; geological sciences and petroleum engineering, \$850,000; men's gymnasium addition, \$300,000; women's gymnasium addition, \$300,000; home economics, \$500,000; administration building addition, \$250,000; outdoor theater completion and seats, \$235,000; education or art, \$500,000; utilities expansion, \$100,000.

At San Francisco, \$6,025,000 will be spent for teaching hospital, \$4,000,000; medical science, \$1,000,000; nurses' home, \$500,000; internes' quarters, \$200,000; dental clinic, \$100,000; generator plant, \$135,000; laundry, \$90,000.

At Davis, the expenditures will be: veterinary science, \$1,000,000; plant sciences, \$500,000; soils and irrigation, \$300,000; poultry husbandry, \$250,000; student health center, \$150,000; home economics, \$500,000; Putah Creek bridge, \$6,000; utilities expansion, \$50,000.

At La Jolla, \$225,000 will be spent: library, museum and aquarium, \$125,000; pier repairs and rehabilitation, \$50,000; sea wall, \$25,000; utilities, \$25,000.

At Mt. Hamilton, \$900,000 will be spent for a new reflecting telescope, and \$75,000 for fire protection and rehabilitation of buildings.

At Riverside \$420,000 will be spent on a library building, with auditorium, \$300,000; on an insectary, \$60,000; and on heating plant, \$60,000.

At Santa Barbara College, \$1,500,000 will be spent on new buildings.

THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE WAR.

At a meeting of representatives of the professional and administrative services of the Office of the Surgeon General, held in Washington on July 26, plans were discussed and progress reports were made on the medical history of the war, work on which has been in progress since August, 1941. It is being carried out under the direction of Colonel Albert G. Love, of the Army Medical Department, who was a member of the editorial staff that published the history of the Medical Department of the United States Army in World War I.

Editors have been selected for the volumes on the

medical specialties and the administrative phases of the medical service. In addition to the research and editorial work to be done in the Office of the Surgeon General, historical investigations will be carried forward by officers assigned to the headquarters of overseas theaters. They will secure first-hand reports of over-all medical services, particularly those rendered under combat conditions, including evacuation of the wounded and the flow of supplies. Officers overseas who have had extensive experience with medical and surgical problems peculiar to this war are being asked to record their observations.

When first organized, the historical activities of the Medical Department relative to professional subjects were part of a joint plan to be undertaken in cooperation with the Subcommittee on Historical Records of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council. The administrative and organizational volumes were to be prepared by the Medical Department. This plan, however, was modified recently in accordance with the wishes of Surgeon General Norman T. Kirk, who believes that the Medical Department should assume full responsibility for its entire history.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, Paine professor of astronomy at Harvard University and director of the observatory, and Dr. George David Birkhoff, Perkins professor of mathematics and dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, have been elected to honorary membership in the Mathematical Society of Mexico.

THE University of Oregon conferred at its commencement exercises the doctorate of science on Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, professor of paleontology at the University of California at Berkeley, "in recognition of his penetrating researches in paleobotany in general and of the Oregon area in particular; his unique understanding of the historical geology of Western America in relation to that of Asiatic countries; and his deep appreciation of the kinship of science in its broadest aspects and its contribution to the understanding of human values."

ARTHUR PHILLIPS, professor of metallurgy at Yale University, has returned from a three months stay in Brazil. During his visit the University of São Paulo, Brazil, conferred on him the honorary degree of *doctor honoris causa*, in recognition of his contributions to metallurgy and of a series of lectures given before various Brazilian groups. He was one of three Americans who visited Brazil under the sponsorship of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The Associação Brasileira de Metais presented

him with a gold medal and elected him a director of the society. At the conclusion of the lectures, he was conducted on a two-week tour of the mining districts of Brazil, in order to learn at first hand the problems facing the metal producers there.

THE Cameron Prize in Practical Therapeutics of the University of Edinburgh has been awarded to Dr. Otto Loewi, research professor of pharmacology at New York University, in recognition of "his fundamental work on the chemical transmission of the nervous impulse."

PROFESSOR W. STORRS COLE, of the department of geology of the Ohio State University, has been elected a member-at-large of the National Research Council. He has been assigned to the division of geology and geography for a three-year term ending on June 30, 1947.

DR. E. F. KELLY has resigned as secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

DR. GILBERT SHAW SCOTT, the first secretary of the British Institute of Metals, is retiring after having served for thirty-six years.

DR. G. E. POTTER, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, has leave of absence to enable him to become visiting professor of biology at the