

SCIENCE

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ENGINEERING SCIENCE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WAR. II

IN coming to this section of my address I am reminded that in the course of his presidential address to section G, in 1858, Lord Rosse said:

Another object of the Mechanical Section of the association has been effected—the importance of engineering science in the service of the state has been brought more prominently forward. There seems, however, something still wanting. Science may yet do more for the Navy and Army if more called upon.

Comparatively recently too, Lord French remarked:

We have failed during the past to read accurately the lessons as regards the fighting of the future which modern science and invention should have taught us.

In view of the eminent services which men of science have rendered during the war, I think that we may be justified in regarding the requirement stated by Lord Rosse as having at last been satisfied, and also in believing that such a criticism as Lord French rightly uttered will not be levelled against the country in the future.

Though British men of science had not formerly been adequately recognized in relation to war and the safety of their country, yet at the call of the sailors and the soldiers they whole-heartedly, and with intense zeal, devoted themselves to repair the negligence of the past, and to apply their unrivalled powers and skill to encounter and overcome the long-standing machinations of the enemy. They worked in close collaboration with the men of science of the allied nations, and eventually produced better war material, chem-