

departments of biological science with which it was intimately connected, the foundations on which it rested, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, and pathology. The difficulty which the student experienced was to keep pace with his subjects. With the average man the whole business had, from the first, been hopeless. He thought that a conference of those interested in medical education might be useful.

THE BERLIN UNIVERSITY CENTENARY.

THE celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the University of Berlin began on Monday with a reception of the representatives of universities and other bodies and a torchlight procession of students. The principal ceremony was held on Tuesday in the new Great Hall of the University. The Emperor and Empress, with the Prussian Princes and a brilliant retinue, attended, and his Majesty delivered an address. The festivities will be continued until Thursday night. A Reuter message from Berlin states that all the German and the principal foreign universities of the world are represented by special delegates. The representatives appointed by British universities are (in alphabetical order):—Aberdeen, Principal G. A. Smith; Cambridge, Sir J. J. Thomson; Cape Town, Prof. Marais; Dublin, Prof. Mahaffy; Durham, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jevons; Edinburgh, Prof. H. J. Eggeling and Sir W. Turner; Glasgow, Principal Macalister; London, Sir H. E. Roscoe and Sir W. Ramsay; Melbourne, Prof. Masson; Montreal, Lord Strathcona; Oxford, Mr. R. W. Macan, the Master of University; Toronto, Prof. McCurdy. The British Academy is represented by Lord Reay; the Royal Society by Sir Joseph Larmor; and the University of Paris by M. Henri Poincaré.

Reuter's correspondent remarked on Monday:—"The patriotic aspect of the fêtes will be more strongly marked than is usual in the case of academic celebrations. The decision to found a university in Berlin was taken while the capital was still in the occupation of French troops, when Prussia's national fortunes were at their lowest ebb. It is now a matter of justifiable pride to the Germans that in those disastrous days there was still courage and energy enough in Prussia to set coolly about the task of rebuilding the intellectual and educational life of the country and giving it a national centre. Since then Berlin University has grown with the growth of Prussia and Germany, and a glance at its records from the handful of professors and the few scores of students who attended the opening winter term of 1810 to the 500 professors and lecturers and the 12,000 students who now throng the University buildings, provides no bad barometer by which to gauge the marvellous progress of Prussia and Germany during the past century."

We hope to give in a later issue an account of the celebration, by one of the delegates attending it. The issues of the *Morning Post* for October 11 and 12 contain particulars of the opening functions, and two valuable leading articles in which German thoroughness and system in educational and scientific work are described. From the latter issue we reprint some interesting extracts from the German Emperor's address.

The German Emperor on Knowledge and Research.

Since the day of its foundation, the destiny of the Friedrich Wilhelm University has been most intimately bound up with that of the Prussian and German Fatherland. When my forefather King Frederick William the Third summoned it into existence, now a hundred years ago, his object was to restore to the State with intellectual what it had lost in physical forces. The University of Berlin was thus born of the same creative spirit from which Prussia's regeneration sprang. This spirit, which raised up Prussia and Germany, and which lived in Fichte, Schleiermacher, Savigny, and their friends, made the University in the course of years the centre of intellectual and scientific life in the Fatherland. The University of Berlin was at first, it is true, far from being a *Universitas Literarum* as conceived by Wilhelm von Humboldt, but it has approached ever nearer to this ideal. A stronghold of the sciences, it has to-day an international importance reaching far beyond the frontiers

of Prussia and Germany. This is manifested outwardly in the interchange of teachers and auditors. Working in common with the other universities of the country, it constitutes now the general teaching establishment which it was intended to be by its founders.

Humboldt's great plan demands side by side with the Academy of Sciences and with the University independent research institutions as integral parts of a whole scientific organism. The foundation of such institutions has not kept pace in Prussia with the development of the universities, and this deficiency, especially in our natural scientific equipment, becomes ever more keenly felt in consequence of the mighty advancement of the sciences. We need institutions which, outside the compass of the universities, shall serve solely for research. It appears to me to be the sacred task of the present time to summon such institutions into life at the earliest possible moment, and I consider it my patriotic duty to solicit universal interest in the undertaking. This great aim requires large means, and can be attained only if all circles interested in the progress of science and the welfare of the Fatherland are ready to cooperate in fulfilling this most important task and in making sacrifices for it.

I should like, therefore, to bring before everybody's eyes and lay at everybody's heart this new aim with the fervent exhortation: "Tua res agitur." I hope and firmly trust that the work will succeed, for, although the plan has been made known only in a narrow circle, enthusiastic expressions of concurrence have already reached me from various parts of the country, and the very considerable sum of between nine and ten million marks [between 450,000*l.* and 500,000*l.*] have been placed at the disposal of the enterprise. I feel it a cordial necessity to express my warmest thanks from this place to the self-sacrificing givers. In order to ensure the permanent furtherance of the enterprise, it is my wish to found under my protectorate and name a society which shall make it its task to establish and maintain research institutions. To this society I will gladly transfer the funds offered me. That State help will not be wanting to institutions about to be established my Government will take care.

I have one other wish for the University to take with it into the new century. May it in faithful remembrance of the time of its origin preserve its Prussian-German character. Science, it is true, is the common good of the whole civilised world, and its achievements no longer halt before any boundary line. And yet—as each nation must preserve its own peculiarity if it wishes to maintain an independent existence, and its value for the whole—may the "Alma Mater Berolinensis" always remain conscious of the fact that she is a German university. As heretofore, may it also be in all the future the seat of German manners and customs and of the German nature. . . . May, therefore, the University also henceforward hold the splendid privilege of cultivating the true science which, as Humboldt admirably says, comes from the interior and is planted in the interior which remoulds and creates the character. Let her do this with noble freedom which gives laws to itself and in that intense feeling of being the trustee of a treasure which is bestowed on all mankind. "Communis hominum thesaurus situs est in magnis veritatibus." All truth, however, is from God, and His spirit rests on every work that springs from truth and strives after truth. May this spirit of truth also fill you students; may it penetrate my dear University in its entire efficacy. Then will its old age be as its youth, and it will continue to be the town on a hill to which the nations make pilgrimage, and the ornament and safeguard of the Fatherland.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT SHEFFIELD.

SECTION L.

EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE.

OPENING ADDRESS BY PRINCIPAL H. A. MIERS, M.A.,
D.Sc., F.R.S., PRESIDENT OF THE SECTION.

To preside over this Section is to incur a responsibility which I confess somewhat alarms me; for the President may, by virtue of his temporary office, be regarded as speaking with authority on the subjects with which he deals.