

in receipt of grants from the Board of Education was little more than 600,000*l.*, of which amount the total State grant was roughly one half. The State grants to universities in Prussia alone are more than twice as much as are contributed to our universities from the national exchequer.

Lord Haldane may therefore safely say that the United States and Germany have made far greater strides in university education than have been undertaken in this country. When he wrote the introduction to Sir Norman Lockyer's collection of addresses on education and national progress (1906), he suggested that the private donor should be encouraged, but that the motto of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as regards expenditure upon matters connected with higher education and research should be *Festina lente*. "I do not mean," he wrote, "that the Government ought not to spend public money generously upon the universities. I mean that it should not be spent unless and until a case for the necessity of such expenditure has been clearly made out."

We may be permitted to conclude from the address at Sheffield that Lord Haldane is now of the opinion that a case has been made out for increased national provision for our educational forces. He knows as well as anyone that the great advances being made in education in other countries constitute a formidable menace to ourselves, and that the State can wait no longer for like developments if it desires to maintain a leading position among progressive peoples. He has now stated authoritatively that the Cabinet realises our weakness, and accepts the only policy which will remedy it. We have read this pronouncement with lively satisfaction, and shall welcome any measure which will put the policy into effect.

#### DR. LUCAS-CHAMPIONNIERE.

THE sudden death of Dr. Just Lucas-Championnière has brought regret to many surgeons in this country, who knew the excellence of his character and of his work. He was seventy years old, surgeon to the Hôtel Dieu (the great hospital in Paris, founded by Saint Louis)—Commander of the Legion of Honour, and member of the French Academy. His father was the first editor of one of the chief medical journals of France; his grandfather had been a leader in the heroic war of La Vendée. From the Collège Rollin, Lucas-Championnière went to the Hôtel Dieu as a student, and was *interne* there in 1865. He became one of the most eminent of all French surgeons of his time, and received honours from many countries, including the Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of London and of Edinburgh. He was a great "all-round" surgeon; but he gave especial study to the operative treatment of hernia, and to the management of fractures. His best recreation—so far as he had time for it—he found in music.

To us over here—some of us may remember his genial presence in London during the 1881 International Medical Congress—he stands for the

introduction into France of Lister's antiseptic method. He in France, and Saxtorph in Denmark, were the teachers of the new learning. He came to Glasgow in 1868, and Edinburgh in 1875, that he might learn for himself, watching Lister himself, every detail of the method. He so worshipped the work of Lister that, in the later years of his life, he resented the changes of method, the preference for things "aseptic" over things "antiseptic"; he hoped that surgery would return to "Lister's own method." There are few surgical books more pleasant to handle than his "*Pratique de la Chirurgie Antiseptique*"—with its portrait of Lister for a frontispiece, and the loyalty and devotion of the writing. It is pitiful to think how slow was the spread of the new learning; what misery was added, for want of the antiseptic method, to the misery of the Franco-German War; what unbelief, and worse than unbelief, delayed the universal recognition of Lister even in our own country.

#### NOTES.

A ROYAL Commission has been appointed to inquire into the subject of venereal diseases in the United Kingdom. The terms of reference are:—To inquire into the prevalence of venereal diseases in the United Kingdom, their effects upon the health of the community, and the means by which those effects can be alleviated or prevented, it being understood that no return to the policy or provisions of the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1864, 1866, 1869 is to be regarded as falling within the scope of the inquiry. The members of the Commission are:—Lord Sydenham of Combe, G.C.S.I., F.R.S. (chairman), the Right Hon. Sir David Brynmor Jones, K.C., M.P., Mr. Philip Snowden, Sir Kenelm E. Digby, G.C.B., K.C., Sir Almeric FitzRoy, K.C.B., Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O., Sir John Collie, Dr. A. Newsholme, Canon J. W. Horsley, the Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, Dr. F. W. Mott, Mr. J. E. Lane, Mrs. Scharlieb, Mrs. Creighton, and Mrs. Burgwin. The secretary to the Commission is Mr. E. R. Forber, of the Local Government Board, to whom any communications on the subject may be addressed.

By Order in Council dated October 14 new denominations of standards of the metric carat of 200 milligrams and its multiples and sub-multiples have been legalised for use in trade in the United Kingdom on and after April 1, 1914. The permissible abbreviation of the denomination "metric carat" is "C.M." The weights legalised range from 500 C.M. to 0.005 C.M., the series being 5, 2, 1 throughout. The legalisation of the metric carat has been undertaken by the Board of Trade after consulting representatives of the trade in diamonds and precious stones, and is the outcome of a resolution passed at the General Conference on Weights and Measures, held in Paris in 1907, advocating the adoption of an international standard carat. Diamond dealers in this country were at first opposed to any change, and it is only quite recently that they have found it necessary to reconsider their views on