

distant. On March 28, 1914, their educational authorities said: "The scheme for founding a great residential university at Groote Schuur has our hearty and unanimous support. We are prepared to abandon any local ambitions we may have had in favour of this truly national enterprise, even though it involves our losing the revenue we at present derive from the Beit bequest." It is difficult to see why objections should now be brought to the very university which two years and a half ago had the unanimous approval of the Rand. Public meetings have recently been held at which most of the speakers showed but little knowledge either of the history of the subject or of what is meant by a university. They have suddenly discovered that their rich district is being exploited for the benefit of Capetown, and that their great thirst for university education has been left unslaked, deliberately, by the Union Government. They are greatly mistaken. If these public meetings create such a thirst they will prove a godsend, for such a thirst cannot exist in rich Johannesburg without almost immediately creating a worthy university. We think that the people of South Africa ought to be very well satisfied with the recent university legislation. Some years ago the question was a very vexed one. There were great jealousies between north and south, but still greater were the racial difficulties, both in the north and south, and of all these troubles nothing remains except an apparent grievance at Johannesburg. It is to be hoped that the men who drew up that magnanimous statement of two and a half years ago will take advantage of the present agitation to give Johannesburg a teaching university of its own.

THE NEWCASTLE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

WHEN it was first suggested that the 1916 meeting of the British Association should be held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne the conditions in that city were very different from what they are now. The same might be said of any town in Great Britain; but the war has affected Newcastle itself with no uncertainty; and the Northumberland and Durham miners, as well as the shipyard and engine workers, have contributed handsomely to the ranks of our New Army.

With this war atmosphere thickening as the demands of the Navy and Army became greater, it was natural that considerable discussion should arise as to the wisdom of holding the meeting in Newcastle this year. It was, however, finally decided to hold the meeting on September 5-9, on the understanding that it would be a purely business meeting, shorn of all the festivities, such as garden parties and excursions, to which the members are accustomed. In fact, the meeting will be on similar lines to those on which the Manchester meeting was run last year.

In normal times the meeting would have centred itself round Armstrong College, and in consequence the work of the Sectional Arrangements

Committee would have been comparatively light; its spacious halls and lecture-rooms and its well-equipped laboratories would have provided that arrangement which is so eminently suited to a British Association meeting, viz. the reception-room and its adjuncts, as well as a large proportion of the section-rooms, in one building. Armstrong College, however, was taken over by the War Office during the early part of the war, and became, and still is, the 1st Northern General Hospital. Nevertheless, ample and satisfactory accommodation has been obtained; in several instances two or more sections will meet in the same building, and all the section-rooms are in close proximity to one another.

As in 1889, the reception-room will be the library of the College of Medicine, where also several section-rooms, smoke-rooms, writing-rooms, Press and general offices will be provided. The following list shows where the various sections will meet:—A (Mathematical and Physical Science), Trinity Church Rooms; B (Chemistry), College of Medicine; C (Geology), Friends' Meeting House; D (Zoology), Grand Assembly Rooms; E (Geography), Friends' Meeting House; F (Economic Science), Literary and Philosophical Society; G (Engineering), Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers; H (Anthropology), Friends' Meeting House; I (Physiology), College of Medicine; K (Botany), Grand Assembly Rooms; L (Educational Science), St. James's Church Rooms; M (Agriculture), Grand Assembly Rooms.

Sir Arthur Evans, F.R.S., the president-elect, will deliver his address on Tuesday evening, September 5, at the inaugural meeting, which will be held in the Town Hall. In the same hall on Thursday evening, September 7, Prof. William A. Bone, F.R.S., will deliver a discourse on "Flame and Flameless Combustion," and on September 8 Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, F.R.S., will deliver a discourse on evolution and the war.

Owing to circumstances incident to the war, it has been found to be impossible to arrange this year visits to the armament factories or the great shipbuilding and engineering works on the North-East Coast. A further announcement, however, may be made in the early future with regard to this matter. Nor will there be any excursions of the usual type, although it is understood that a number of the sections are promoting shorter excursions of special interest.

The Literary and Philosophical Society's Library, the Laing Art Gallery, the Hancock Museum of Natural History, and the Black Gate Museum will be open to members of the Association during the meeting. The majority of the clubs of Newcastle have granted temporary membership to those attending the meeting.

Following the course adopted at Manchester, the Association has again offered students and teachers of Newcastle and district associates' tickets at a reduced fee, and it is hoped that a large number will show their appreciation of this encouragement. Lectures to the public will be given in Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, and Ashington by distinguished men.