

warn us that modern civilisation is at the cross-roads of its destiny. Unless, by some deflection of its recent purpose, power can be concentrated upon the constructive works of peace, it will destroy civilisation by war. At this moment the Middle Ages seem to whisper once more the message of an ideal which in modern times most men have discarded or have tried, however wistfully, to forget. In industry men begin to think of the medieval guilds. In art the naive sincerity of the primitive painters inspires some of those moderns whose pictures are religious. In politics men speculate as to the possibility of a Council of the Peoples which may recognise nationhood, but allay its rivalries. We cannot go back to the Middle Ages and become medieval in all our thought and way of life. But it is possible that the future may blend some medieval ideas with those derived from the age of power, and that what is perilous in some modern tendencies may be transmuted by a rediscovery of some aspects of truth better known to the medieval than to the modern mind. To the medieval thinker three mysterious powers sustained, by their harmonious working, the life of Christendom. They were called the priesthood, the Empire, and the university: Sacerdotium, Imperium, and Studium. For all three in a form adapted to modern needs the modern world may find a place.

THE recent annual meeting of the council of the Association of University Teachers was held at Bedford College, London, and was well attended by delegates from the various university institutions of England and Wales. The president, Prof. John Strong, of the University of Leeds, in his retiring address indicated the general aims of the association, the lines on which it has been working, the progress made, and some of the more important problems opening up. The primary aims were the advancement of knowledge and the furtherance of the interests of the universities. So long as the universities were in difficulties regarding finance, so long would their work suffer. Such questions as teachers' salaries and superannuation were, under present conditions, insistent. The superannuation question had not been settled by the recent grant from the Treasury, nor was the problem of salaries yet solved, although progress towards a solution was apparent. Apart from these, other and equally serious questions were arising. The relation of the universities to the State and to the local authorities would demand more and more serious consideration. While greater financial support from the Government was imperative, the matter of similar and more uniform support from the local education authorities was urgent. The suggestion of a uniform local rate being levied upon all the local education authorities had much to be said in its favour, but, among other things, it would mean increased local representation. Consideration of these points gave rise to the question of the possible infringement of the present autonomy of the universities—a matter of vital importance to the teaching body. Any such possibilities would have to be watched carefully by the universities. The officers and executive committee for the coming year were elected as follows:—*President*: Prof. John Strong (Leeds). *Vice-Presidents*: Prof. McBain (Bristol) and Mr. F. Boulden (Sheffield). *Treasurer*: Asst. Prof. Tabor (Imperial College). *Hon. General Secretary*: Mr. R. D. Laurie (Aberystwyth). *Executive Committee*: Prof. Calder (Manchester), Prof. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan (Birkbeck College), Mr. Haigh (Reading), Miss Halket (Bedford College), Prof. Lea (Birmingham), Prof. Mair (Liverpool), Mr. Monahan (Leeds), Prof. Orton (Bangor), Asst. Prof. Philpot (University College, London), and Prof. Truscott (Imperial College).

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### Calendar of Scientific Pioneers.

**July 28, 1818. Gaspard Monge, Comte de Péluse, died.**—The creator of descriptive geometry, Monge was a prominent figure through the whole of the Revolutionary period. He had a great share in founding the Ecole Polytechnique, and, like Berthollet, was a favourite of Napoleon. At the Restoration he was expelled from the Institute on account of his having voted for the death of Louis XVI.

**July 29, 1751. Benjamin Robins died.**—A mathematician of distinction, Robins invented the ballistic pendulum and carried out a series of experiments which marks an era in the history of gunnery. He died at Madras as chief engineer to the East India Company.

**July 29, 1869. Joseph Beete Jukes died.**—A favourite pupil of Sedgwick, Jukes became naturalist to H.M.S. *Fly* in Australia (1842-46), and from 1850 was director of the Geological Survey of Ireland.

**July 29, 1885. Henri Milne-Edwards died.**—Milne-Edwards filled the chairs of entomology, zoology, and physiology at the Jardin des Plantes, studied the natural history of the coasts of France and Sicily, and wrote valuable works on the Crustacea, on the corals, and on physiology and comparative anatomy.

**July 29, 1898. John Alexander Renia Newlands died.**—One of the first to indicate that the properties of the elements are related to their atomic weights, Newlands practised in London as an analytical chemist.

**July 30, 1832. Jean Antoine Chaptal, Comte de Chanteloup, died.**—A member of a wealthy family, Chaptal engaged in practical chemistry, and during the Revolution superintended the manufacture of gunpowder. Under Napoleon he served as Minister of Instruction, and did much to further the industrial arts and manufactures of France.

**July 30, 1913. John Milne died.**—For twenty years professor of geology and mining at the Imperial College of Engineering, Tokyo, Milne made an exhaustive study of earthquakes. He founded the Seismological Society of Japan, invented various instruments, and contributed numerous papers on seismology to the British Association and other bodies.

**July 31, 1839. Gaspard Clair François Marie Riche, Baron de Prony, died.**—A famous member of the Corps des Ponts et Chaussées, Prony during the Revolution directed the compilation of extensive logarithmic tables. He became a professor at the Ecole Polytechnique, and was employed on many civil engineering works of importance. The Prony friction dynamometer was his invention.

**August 1, 1769. Jean Chappe d'Aueroche died.**—An assistant astronomer of the Paris Academy of Sciences, the Abbé Chappe d'Aueroche observed the transit of Venus of 1761 at Tobolsk, Siberia, and that of 1769 at St. Joseph, California, where he died of fever brought on by his exertions in the interest of science.

**August 2, 1823. Lazare Nicholas Marguerite Carnot died.**—Carnot began life as a military engineer. He helped to found the Ecole Polytechnique, and was one of the first members of the Institut de France. His work of 1803, "Géométrie de position," gives him a place beside Monge and Poncelet as one of the founders of modern geometry, and as a military engineer he is remembered for his great work on fortifications.

**August 3, 1770. Guillaume François Rouelle died.**—As professor of chemistry in the Jardin du Roi, Rouelle attracted much attention by his lectures and his new ideas. Lavoisier and Proust were among his pupils.

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