

of the science of aviation and of the art of flight. In accordance with the opinion expressed by the Committee on Education and Research in Aeronautics that "The Imperial College should become the Central School for advanced study in Aeronautical Science," a Department of Aeronautics was established in 1920-1921 at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, with the approval and financial support of the Government and under the direction of Sir Richard Glazebrook. We have received a prospectus of the reorganised department. It is now under the direction of Prof. L. Bairstow, who is Zaharoff professor of aviation, and is assisted by two assistant professors on design and on meteorology, and by five lecturers on airships, on air navigation, on strength of structures, and on engine design. The assistant professorship in meteorology is at present vacant: all the other posts are filled by distinguished exponents of their subjects. As is to be expected, the department is in the main a school for post-graduate work, and its aim is in the direction of the encouragement of research, as well as in the co-ordinating of experimental work carried out by individual workers at experimental stations in different parts of Great Britain. A complete course takes two years, the first being spent in study at the College and the second in research or in experimental work. A special one-year course is also offered for advanced students, two terms at the College and the third term in experimental work at a research station or at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington: The Department of Aeronautics at the Imperial College has already achieved considerable success: it will no doubt become one of the foremost centres of aeronautical study in the world.

TECHNICAL and evening classes provided by the London County Council opened this week. Last session about 120,000 students attended the evening institutes in London and 51,000 the polytechnic and technical institutes, making all told about 170,000. This was an increase of nearly 7000 over the figures for the previous year. Increases in attendance occurred mainly in the classes for women's subjects and for cultural and commercial education; there was a slight decrease in the numbers attending technical classes. Forty years ago the number attending the "night" schools of the period was 10,000. Despite the increase in numbers since then, the fact remains that, even to-day, only about one Londoner in three continues his or her education beyond the elementary school stage. Among recent developments may be mentioned the teaching of petroleum technology, oxy-acetylene welding, classes for the scale and weighing industry, and for textile distributors, musical instrument making, and an advanced school of rubber technology, science teaching in connexion with commodities and the marketing of commodities, technical optics, and aeronautics. A panel of about 10,000 instructors has been appointed to give the instruction; it is computed that about 80 per cent. of these are actually employed in the trades and professions they teach. The amount spent on vocational and cultural classes of this description in London is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds a year. The bulk of this expenditure is met in equal proportions by the Board of Education and the London County Council, the balance being derived from the fees of students and endowments. For the information of parents and older students, an illustrated "Guide to Continued Education in London" has just been published for the London County Council by the University of London Press. This may be obtained from any bookseller at 6d. a copy.

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Early Science at the Royal Society.

September 21, 1664. Dr. Wren being desired to defer no longer the making of a larger telescopic moon for the Society, promised to do it against his next coming to London; upon which it was ordered that the treasurer should pay for a globe of that size, which Dr. Wren should choose at Mr. Moxon's. Several experiments were made. [Oldenburg, in a letter to Boyle, dated at London, September 22, 1664, gives some account of what passed at this meeting, where, he observes, they had the company of a Parisian academist, recommended to Sir Robert Moray and himself. I dare say (he says) he will extol our institution and proceedings to the sky, whensoever he comes; though I must say we grow more remiss and careless than I am willing to expatiate upon. Yet this I must say to a person, that I am sure hath a concern for our prosperity, that nothing is done with the king for us.]

September 22, 1679. Ordered—that Mr. Hunt take care to have all the instruments of the Society now in the custody of Mr. Flamstead at Greenwich immediately removed to Gresham College; and that Sir Christopher Wren and Mr. Hooke be desired to go thither, and take what care they can in it; and that in the meantime Mr. Hooke write to Mr. Moore about the same, and desire to have them carefully sent home.

September 23, 1663. The president gave an account of the experiment committed to his charge, about the descending of water purged from air, proposed formerly by Mons. Huygens, and several times tried before the Society; which the president affirmed to hold good upon every accurate trial. He was desired to prosecute the experiment with quicksilver, and to bring in the particulars of the whole success in writing, together with the solution of this phenomenon.—There was read a petition of the fishmongers, presented to the Parliament, concerning the annoyances, whereby the fry and brood of fish is destroyed, and the several ways whereby the same may be preserved. This was communicated by Mr. Graunt.—The operator was ordered to have ready against the next meeting the iron balls for the trying of gun-powder and gold-powder; as likewise the compressing engine; and the dog, for the cutting off a piece of his skin.

September 24, 1662. Mr. Winthrop read his paper concerning the conveniency of building of ships in some of the northern parts of America, there being several reasons, that may be propounded, as motives encouraging thereto. Among these, that it is not a new project the building of ships in those parts, for there hath been sufficient experience already made, there having been every year some built (great or small) for above these twenty years. There were this summer divers here at London, that were built over there, whereof two of about two hundred tuns: there is one now of an hundred tuns in this river, that was built there: there have been formerly some of three hundred and four hundred tuns built there. There hath been also, and is daily tar and pitch made; and much experience hath been made of the masts of those parts; many having been brought over hither.

1677. It was ordered that the officiating secretary taking short notes of all that passes at the Society or Council before the rising thereof, read the said notes in order to see that they be rightly taken.

September 25, 1661. Mr. Croune was desired to try some experiments of the weights of liquors: the lord viscount Brouncker to make the experiments of two pendulums: Dr. Goddard to prosecute his trials of sinking bodies under the surface of the water: Dr. Charlton to try the experiment of the freezing of salt water: Sir William Petty, a discourse on clothing.