

already, a most effective piece of propaganda. Among its activities would be, in addition to classes, discussions, exercises, seminars and individual counsel and advice; also publication of specially prepared handbooks for aspirants to self-culture, since the popular manuals now on the market do not meet the case.

Prof. Dobrowolski has won for his ideas the support of a group of some fifteen of his colleagues, and a working model of the suggested university faculty has been brought into being under the significant name "Universitas Rediviva". For eight months, thirty students of varying ages and professions have taken part in this experiment. The work is organized in two stages: first, evening classes and exercises extending over four semesters (two years) and occupying eight hours a week; secondly, tutorial counsel given, orally or by correspondence, by various specialists, and group discussions.

The subject-matters of the course range over the widest fields: the art of thinking, general history of ideas, science and technology, art, literature, psychological sciences, economics and sociology, education, the use of leisure, ideologies and criteria of values. In practice, they are divided into six groups: (1) physics, chemistry and astronomy, with mathematics; (2) natural and geographical sciences; (3) psychological sciences; (4) social sciences; (5) pedagogic sciences, and, in relation thereto, the technique of intellectual work, conceptions of the world, philosophies, etc.; (6) art and literature.

Embracing, though it does, the whole of civilization, the programme is intended to be taken in its entirety by every student, and, in order to ensure unity of treatment the professors keep ever before themselves their common aim: the acquisition by the student of the capacity to judge, to appraise, to estimate.

## Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions

THE twenty-eighth annual conference of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions was held in Coventry during Whitsuntide. On May 17, the president for 1937-38, Mr. W. E. Park, principal of the Technical School, Luton, was installed by Mr. W. T. Maccall, of Sunderland Technical College, who had filled the presidential office during 1936-37. A civic welcome to the Association was accorded by the Deputy Mayor of Coventry, the chairman of the Education Committee and the chairman of the Technical Schools Sub-Committee of Coventry.

"In no town more than Coventry," said Mr. Park in his presidential address, "can we see so well exemplified the changes which are so rapidly taking place. Its industries, built up on the tradition of skilled craftsmanship, are being adapted to the means of the defence of our realm, and as the adaptation proceeds the serious shortage of skilled workers and trained technicians is being realized". It is the business of technical educationists to solve such problems as these, Mr. Park continued. But it must be remembered that, whatever the needs of the immediate present, the fundamental business of technical education is to serve the industrial and commercial civilization which is ours. To that end, the system must be carefully and scientifically planned. For this reason, he emphasized the value of a report on "Co-operation in Technical Education" recently prepared by a conference of representatives of the associations of local education authorities and the London County Council and issued by the Board of Education. Mr. Park directed special attention to the passages of that report which recommended consultation between authorities in regard to the provision and planning of new buildings, and the need for co-operation in connexion with the distribution and delimitation of different stages or types of instruction. Association between authorities to deal with problems of industrial regions as a whole facilitates negotiations with industrial and commercial organizations for the region, and will enable

possibilities in connexion with the utilization of teachers, particularly with those possessing high qualifications of a specialized character, to be examined much more carefully than has hitherto been the case.

Mr. Park insisted that technical education will fail its ultimate purpose if it neglects training for citizenship. Merely to train technicians either for the purposes of re-armament or for the bare needs of industry and commerce would lead to the creation of a nation of robots. Hence the Association's activity in conjunction with its sister associations in producing a "Report on Education for Citizenship" which was discussed and accepted during the Conference. Whether 'citizenship' be taught directly or indirectly in technical colleges, the question of "bringing politics into the college" must be faced. It is important in this connexion to remember three things: First, that in the initial stages the social sciences are mainly descriptive and non-controversial; second, that the average teacher is conscientious and knows that he can and must distinguish between facts and his own opinions; and third, that if a scientific approach to social and political problems is not taught in the class room, young people will be left completely unprotected against propaganda in later life.

Among the resolutions passed by the Conference was one which urged the release of technical teachers, after seven years' teaching service, for further periods of industrial service without loss of salary or superannuation rights. Another resolution urged the advisability of increasing facilities for the attendance of young persons at part-time day technical classes in preference to evening classes. This arrangement the Conference held to be in the best interests of students, physically and mentally, and ultimately to be most beneficial to the nation and to industry. In a resolution dealing with the Factory Act, the Conference expressed the view that no overtime should be worked by young persons less than eighteen years of age.