

Goldsmiths' College

GOLDSMITHS' College, which was severely damaged during a recent air raid, has an interesting history. The oldest part of the building represents what is left of the Royal Naval School, founded in 1833 as a public school to enable the less affluent naval officer to give his sons a sound education at the least possible expense. Nearly sixty years later the Goldsmiths' Company took over the premises, and established its Technical and Recreative Institute, providing, besides numerous technical classes, science and art departments which gained a high reputation. The latter attracted distinguished artists as teachers, whilst in the science department the late Sir William Pope, the late Prof. G. Barger of Edinburgh, and Prof. A. Lapworth of Manchester, were among those who gained their earlier experience in teaching. At the end of a period of thirteen years, the Act of 1902 having meantime thrown the responsibility for providing technical education upon the London County Council, the Company closed the Institute, and handed over the premises and site to the University of London on liberal terms. The University retained the Art and Science and Engineering Departments, and, with the co-operation of several county authorities, established a large Training Department.

Thus the Goldsmiths' Institute became Goldsmiths' College, owned and controlled by the University. The Science Department was closed during the War of 1914-18. Later on, the Engineering Department was removed to the new South-east London Technical Institute by the London County Council, and was replaced by an Evening Department of Adult Education. On the outbreak of the present war, the Training Department was transferred to Nottingham. As stated above, the College has been severely damaged. The upper floor, including the library and common rooms, has suffered very heavily. Fortunately, the Great Hall, capable of seating about 1,800 persons, and the organ, upon the renovation of which a sum of several thousand pounds has recently been spent, remain intact. The Art School, built at great expense only a few years ago, is also uninjured. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Goldsmiths' College will in happier times be enabled to resume its former activities.

Drug Supplies in War-Time

INSTEAD of the customary science paper, the January meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society's winter session, held on January 16, was devoted to the topical subject of the drug supply in war-time. The speaker, Mr. Arthur Mortimer, whose world survey of the medicinal products used in Great Britain—a survey prepared for use in the event of an emergency—has proved a helpful piece of work to Government departments, referred among other matters to drugs which are now scarce because their usual sources are no longer available, and to other sources of supply. It has been necessary, he said, to consider how far potassium salts can be replaced by sodium salts; the home supply of potash is very

small and Great Britain has been mainly dependent upon Central Europe for its supplies, although since the War of 1914-18 arrangements have been made by British manufacturers to develop the Dead Sea deposits. It is obvious, he said, that for many uses sodium bromide can be as effective as potassium bromide. Regarding vegetable drugs he mentioned gentian, squill, liquorice, senega, cassia, belladonna, hyoscyamus, stramonium and colchicum, among others, which are already in short supply or may be in short supply, "though if care is used and substitutes are prescribed wherever possible, we shall have no difficulty in meeting the situation". Referring to the manufacture in Great Britain of synthetic products which in the past were made exclusively in what are now hostile countries, he said that H.M. Government naturally expects that every British pharmacist throughout the Empire "would refuse to keep enemy trade marks warm" and would do all they could to popularize the British remedies which are now available.

Polish Faculty of Medicine at Edinburgh

THE University of Edinburgh is providing facilities for the Polish Government to establish a Polish School of Medicine at Edinburgh. This will be staffed by professors and teachers now serving with the Polish Army in Great Britain and by professors of the University Faculty of Medicine in such subjects as may not be represented among the Polish staff. The Polish Forces in the country include a considerable number of medical men, of whom many are of high academic standing, and have held important teaching and research appointments in Poland. In addition, there are other medical graduates of Polish universities and Polish medical undergraduates whose work will be seriously affected unless something is done to mitigate the unfortunate situation in which these men now find themselves. As it is the proclaimed intention of Germany to abolish all higher education in Poland, that country will be left destitute of all means, human and material, for university teaching. By the formation of a Polish Faculty of Medicine, an important branch of Polish learning, namely, medical research and teaching, may be kept alive.

Concessions to School Certificate Candidates

CONCESSIONS to candidates for the 1941 School and Higher School Certificate examinations have been announced by the Board of Education. No abbreviation or reduction in standard of the syllabuses is demanded, but a wider choice of questions will be given so that candidates who, from unavoidable causes, have been unable to cover the whole ground, may yet have ample opportunity of showing their proficiency. The methods for conducting the examinations for admission to secondary and junior technical schools in 1941 will be the same as in 1940, and suggestions have been made for lightening the amount of work thrown upon education authorities in reception areas, whose staffs have already been depleted.