HISTORICAL TEACHING AND IMPERIALISM.

One of the subjects to be brought before the approaching Education Conference in London is the teaching of history in the schools of the Empire as a means of instilling Imperial sentiment. The introduction of the teaching of the history of an unknown benefactor, now deceased, who placed a large sum of money at the disposal of the Council of the League of the Empire to enable them to compile a graduated series of volumes of the history of the Empire which can be used in all educational institutions throughout the King's dominions from the primary school to the University. The work of preparing this very desirable course of history has been entrusted by the Council to a body of specialists, of which Professor Bury is chairman. The sections have been placed in the hands of some of the highest authorities in the different branches of historical science, and the drawing up of the maps has been left in the hands of those best qualified in the study of Geography. All over the world it is too commonly recognised that the physical conditions and relations of a country have an important connection with its political history, and that this must be taken into account in an intellectual way by giving due importance to geography. The outline of this novel undertaking will be laid before the Conference, with the motives that underlie it. In the past the London University's study of history is capable of being made one of the strongest bonds of Empire. It is a study equally necessary for the average home-staying Briton, upon whom the chief responsibility rests, as it is for the colonist, who has found in the aftermath of the earth an inheritance. The value of history as subserving a true Imperialism is manifest. The ancient Roman, who understood the history of his government, and whose greatness was as distinguished in the provinces of the Empire as in Rome itself, made it a point of relationship to become thoroughly acquainted with the history, philosophy, literary work, and religion of the various races under their dominion. The Empire of Great Britain is the most diversified and complex of all, and its history has ever been one of race, traditions, habits, and religious influences mingling in it. If unity is to be preserved and made perfect under these conditions it must be by such accommodation and tolerance as the part of the ruling Power as can come only from an intimate knowledge of all the elements of Empire. Social customs and prejudices, cherished traditions, and, in many cases, proud memories of past greatness, are mingled with a spirit of collaboration, and a sympathetic spirit that is quite impossible without a knowledge of history. The causes that have created and built up our Empire, and which are in a measure still operating, are closely bound up by history and study. The chief fundamental law that we discover at work in the process of Empire-building in the diverse individuality and self-sufficiency of the Briton, the explorer, colonist, and founder of States, we are everywhere impressed with the personal element. The magnetic Dominion of Canada was founded by Franklin, whose name is not on its high authority. The Government was all, and the individual nothing. The American colonies of England, on the contrary, had to be fought from the mother country—great hindrances. The individual did everything. And what were the respective results? The records of New France shine with glorious deeds, the devotion of heroes and martyrs; but there was no initiative...