

scholarship the way to a University of high repute in the subject of his choice should be made easy to a senior student, and every inducement should be offered to him to select the most famous school. Free trade in knowledge is a policy which no one calls in question. Another large question concerns the interchange of teachers. If a Professor, say, of the History of the Empire were to teach alternately for two years in a home University and then for two years in a colony, or a year in one colony and a year in another, all the students of the two, or the three, Universities would have the opportunity of attending his lectures during their three years' course. The interchange of teachers holding subordinate posts might be arranged with less dislocation of general work; and such interchange would, it has been urged, promote the vitality of both the schools.

#### NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

Many large questions concern all Universities, although their imminence varies. There is also a "University question," the answer given to which will affect profoundly their dignity and influence as compared with educational agencies outside them. A momentous change has occurred in educational politics during the past few decades. The spheres of activity of the Universities have greatly widened. They have accepted new and onerous responsibilities. The majority of their Senates now acknowledge that all that is highest in education demands their surveillance, no matter what the profession or trade or occupation to which it leads. How far University training is to aim at rendering the mind sufficiently strong and agile to conquer the difficulties incidental to every career, and to what extent it may be legitimately directed towards removing these difficulties and planting the student's feet securely on the road to a particular occupation, is open to discussion; but it is now universally agreed that it is the destiny of Universities to fit men and women for every walk in life. Within the last few years University Extension has begun to take on a new form, for which there is reason to think that the demand will considerably increase. Artisans are calling for "tutorial classes" for systematic education in the evenings. The extent to which this very laudable ambition of wage-earners can be and ought to be met will be a subject for consideration by the Congress and for exchange of experiences amongst the representatives of Universities which have favoured it.

The problem of their influence on character and moral ideals, in the special form in which it confronts Universities in the East, was proposed as a subject for discussion by Sir Frederick Lugard, Governor of the Colony of Hong-kong and Chancellor of its new University. The delegates of Indian Universities who will attend the Congress will render this discussion useful and, it is to be hoped, fruitful in conclusions.

#### WOMEN IN UNIVERSITIES.

The position of women in Universities opens up so many questions that the Congress will probably think it desirable to limit the discussion to the best interests of women students. In what respects and to what extent do they require differential treatment in the planning of curricula and examinations and in the arrangements for their attendance at lectures and work in laboratories? Concise and definite statements based upon experience regarding the desirability of making special provision, or, on the contrary, of making no distinctions, will be of value. The rights and privileges of women who have graduated or have passed examinations which, were they men, would qualify for graduation is a large and somewhat controversial subject; but it will not be excluded from discussion.

Many other matters of importance to particular Universities or to Universities of a particular type will come before the Congress. Such are, for example, the adequate representation of teachers on their governing bodies and the authority of a committee of professors, usually styled the Senate, on questions relating to curricula and examinations. These are "burning questions" at certain Colonial Universities. The degree of control which a University should exercise over colleges affiliated to it is, again, a subject of limited interest but of urgent importance to certain Canadian and Indian Universities. In various Colonial Universities the conditions of service of professors and subordinate teachers have not been settled to the satisfaction of the persons more specially concerned. Are their appointments permanent, subject to good behaviour? Superannuation and pensions, again, raise problems which have not been solved with equal success in all Universities.

#### A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY BUREAU.

A very practical issue which has been pressed upon the attention of the Congress by several Colonial Universities is the establishment of a Central University Bureau. Such a bureau might, it is contended, perform a large number of important functions—for example, it might collect all records of University legislation. The periodical publication of University information of general interest has been suggested as another possible function of the bureau. It could act, again, in the strictest confidence, as an employment bureau, receiving the names of teachers who are seeking advancement or who for various reasons wish to migrate, informing them of vacancies and supplying to electing bodies names of possible applicants. Students in the Colonies are hampered in research by the difficulty of obtaining the innumerable periodical publications in which contributions to learning are published. The bureau might arrange for the exchange of books and journals published by Universities throughout the Empire. It might also arrange for the loan to individual students of the publications which they need to consult. Probably there are other functions towards which the bureau would feel its way if it were once established and in charge of an energetic and tactful man.

Lastly may be mentioned the ever-present question of finance and the adequacy or inadequacy of the funds supplied by the State to the various Universities of the Empire. Statistics are being collected and tabulated which will allow of comparison. No University ever has had or ever will have sufficient funds to meet its needs. It would be in a very unhealthy condition if it had not in view fresh opportunities in advance of its resources. But there are many points relating to the allocation of University funds to its several necessary undertakings which invite discussion. Comparison may in some cases reveal possibilities of economy. In any case the submission of figures to the Congress will arouse interest and can do no harm.

The Congress of 1912 will be the first attempt at federating the Universities of the Empire. It will be the first gathering of properly accredited representatives for which a comprehensive programme of work has been prepared, with sessions covering four days, and therefore time fairly adequate for the discussion of the numerous items of the agenda paper. It may be assumed that some of these items will be referred to committees who will shape reports leading to practical results.

#### UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

DURHAM, FEB. 12.

##### GIFT TO ARMSTRONG COLLEGE.

A meeting of the Council of Armstrong College was held this afternoon, SIR HUGH BELL presiding.

Dr. HADOW, the Principal, announced that he had received from Mr. Clement Stephenson, veterinary inspector for Northumberland, an offer to give £5,000 for the proposed buildings for a new agricultural department at the college to undertake advisory work among farmers in the North of England. The scheme has been planned at the invitation of the Board of Agriculture under the scheme proposed by the Development Commissioners.

The Council accepted Mr. Stephenson's offer with cordial thanks. It is hoped that the new buildings will house the present agricultural department of the college, the head of which is Professor D. A. Gilchrist. The site has not yet been definitely fixed, but it will probably be within the college grounds.