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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester (Sir John S. B. Stopford, F.R.S., F.R.C.P., M.D., D.Sc., Sc.D.), again this year, has issued to his Fellow Graduates a message in the form of a printed letter, in which he has communicated much news of the activities and aims of the University.

THE UNI-  
VERSITY OF  
MANCHESTER.

We print this letter in full, for we are assured by many readers of the BULLETIN, especially those overseas, including many graduates, that pages devoted to news of the doings of the University are very welcome since, in many cases, it is their only means of keeping in touch with their Alma Mater :

“ DEAR FELLOW GRADUATE,

“ The time has come round for me to send you some news of the University, which must again be in brief form.

“ Whilst the number of students in attendance during the past session showed an increase of approximately 150, there has been a further depletion of the teaching staff owing to alteration of the age of deferment which has affected chiefly the Faculties of Arts, Law and Education.

“ In consequence, everyone has had to undertake additional burdens, and this has been done willingly and loyally by all.

“ A more serious problem has been created by the restrictions now imposed with regard to the conditions of entry and the time during which students may remain at the University. Conditions vary in the different Faculties and for men and women. Admission to the Faculty of Medicine is governed by a quota system imposed by the Ministry of Health, and both men and women are permitted to complete the full course provided certain conditions are observed. In the Faculties of

Science and Technology the men under the jurisdiction of the Joint Recruiting Board, unless they come up at an unusually early age, must now complete their courses in two years and three months. The men in the Faculty of Arts are normally only permitted to stay for three terms. In future, women, unless they enter earlier than usual, and with a few exceptions, will be allowed two years, but those accepted by the Board of Education will be able to take the Teacher's Diploma course in addition. Since frequent changes in the regulations are being made, it may well be that the above conditions have been modified before this letter reaches you. To meet the present regulations we have instituted an additional fourth term during the Summer months of July, August and early September in all Faculties except Medicine and Theology. This will permit the men in Science and Technology to complete the full nine terms' work in the limited time now allowed, and will enable those who are to become teachers to attend the complete undergraduate and diploma courses in three years instead of four. It will speed up the production of trained scientists and teachers who are in such urgent demand in the national interest, and at the same time give the students the fullest opportunities in the limited time available. Although under normal conditions the introduction of a four-term scheme would be open to criticism on educational grounds, in the present circumstances we are convinced that it is the right thing to do in the interest of the students as well as in the national interest.

"During the past session male students have had to undertake part-time national service in the Senior Training Corps or Air Squadron (in approved cases in the Home Guard or Civil Defence), and one day a week has been set aside for this purpose. To compensate for the loss of these days for teaching purposes it was necessary to make some adjustments in the length of the terms, and teaching continued throughout Whit week. Although the women students are not obliged by the Government to undertake part-time national service, some months ago the Women's Union instituted a compulsory scheme, and every woman student, unless exempted owing to special circumstances, is now giving five hours a week to work of national importance.

The scheme has been well organized, and Miss Crump and others have given invaluable help. Each student can choose from the following list the service she desires to undertake. Service in our own Cafeteria, the making of camouflage nets, clerical work, club work and assistance in Play Centres, service in First Aid Posts, cleaning in hospitals, bed-making at Y.M.C.A., industrial work, toy-making and vegetable gardening.

“ From what I have stated it will be clear that both staff and students are very fully occupied, but this has not prevented us giving thought to post-war reconstruction and development. We wish to be prepared and avoid the mistakes which were made during the period of reaction and excitement succeeding the last war, and we believe that it is good for our souls to think about future policy at a time when the opportunities for development and expansion are for obvious reasons so restricted. The Senate has received a first report, and after general discussion remitted the whole subject to a Committee of Deans to be fully thrashed out. This Committee has had a number of most interesting meetings and many fundamental points of great significance and importance are under consideration. Our attention has not been confined to staff, buildings, equipment and new subjects, but often to our primary objectives and the purposes of a civic university. We are much concerned about improvements in our corporate life and the influence upon students other than that in the classroom or laboratory. So far these discussions have been confined to the teachers in the University, and in war-time we cannot expect to get much help from those outside our community with special knowledge and experience in industry, commerce and the professions. We very much hope that at a later stage we may have the benefit of advice from our many friends in these spheres. It is realized that such advice is of supreme value, particularly in certain fields. Engineering is a good example, where we have two large schools, one in the Faculty of Science and the other in the Faculty of Technology, situated in the midst of perhaps the largest engineering centre in the world. With these resources and a much closer association between the two departments and industry, it ought to be possible for us in Manchester

to create the finest engineering school in the country. What has been said with regard to engineering is applicable to several other subjects, and we are determined to take full advantage of our exceptional resources and opportunities.

“The Extra-Mural Department has had the most strenuous year in its history. In the case of this department the war has provided new opportunities as well as difficulties, and Mr. Waller, the Director, and his colleagues have seized these and perhaps laid the foundations for important developments in Adult Education for the post-war period. The Tutorial classes, in collaboration with the W.E.A., have continued practically undiminished although some of the classes are smaller than usual. The annual reception was held at the end of April, when over 1,000 attended, and the address in the evening was given by Principal Nicholson of University College, Hull. Extension courses and lectures have been conducted in many places in the district, and the attendances in spite of the black-out have been unusually high. At the University an exceptional number of extension courses have been held, and from the following list it will be seen that we have attempted to offer to the public information about matters which occupy most urgent attention to-day: The United States of America, Soviet Russia, Town and Country Planning for the Future, The Arab World, and Jews in the Modern World. A number of courses intended to help doctors, nurses, chemists, managers and foremen in the great war industries of the neighbourhood have been well attended and appreciated. An increasing demand is now arising for lectures designed to help teachers who are responsible for religious instruction in the Schools. Courses for this purpose have been given regularly at the University before and during the war, but more ambitious plans are contemplated for the future. Recently, Professor Manson has conducted a highly successful series of lectures at Burnley, and shortly he is to give a course under the auspices of the Lancashire County authority.

“A new venture has been the arrangement of lunch-time talks for the staff of an industrial firm on the north side of the city. These have been given every week, and the work is likely

to increase. In addition, isolated lectures have been provided at Royal Ordnance Factories. In my letter last year I mentioned the growing programme of educational work for H.M. Forces. As you will remember, it is a joint effort in which the University co-operates with local educational authorities, the W.E.A. and other organizations concerned with adult education. Manchester was, I believe, the first to start such a service, but it is now organized throughout the country under Regional Committees and a central council over which Sir Walter Moberly presides. Much could be said about this effort, but space will only permit me to state that now some 60-70 lectures, talks and demonstrations are given weekly in camps and depots in our region, and between October 1st and March 31st 1,999 events were provided. A Music Club is also meeting weekly at the Y.M.C.A., and a Brains Trust, composed of some of the brightest members of the staff, from time to time visits Army camps and R.A.F. stations in the district.

“In view of the considerable expansion in the demand for nursery and school facilities for young children, the Faculty of Education organized during the Michaelmas and Lent terms a most successful course for Teachers in Nursery and Infant Schools. We were embarrassed by the number who applied to attend, and had to limit the number accepted to 56. The following extract from a letter to Professor Oliver from one of those attending the course is of interest and shows how much it was appreciated: ‘I should like to tell you how much I am enjoying the course. Teachers in elementary schools tend to become a very isolated class, much preoccupied with expediences and narrow practical details. This link with the University and the contact with the broader issues has given many of us a new vision and refreshing stimulus. Thank you very much.’ It is probable that the course will be repeated during the coming session.

“Perhaps you might like to hear about recent developments in Horticulture. This department was founded by Professor Weiss, and we owe much to him and to the generous support given by the Royal Botanical and Horticultural Society of Manchester and the Northern Counties. A generous gift of

£69,000 some six or seven years ago from this body enabled us to extend greatly and remodel the department, which has two main objects : (i) to undertake research in Horticulture and to pay particular attention to problems of interest to practical growers in the north, and (ii) the education and training of working gardeners. To achieve these objects a lectureship was instituted about six years ago, and a two-year course in Horticulture for working gardeners has been given since 1937. Maintenance grants for a limited number of working gardeners are offered, and in addition to the small experimental plot in Fallowfield, we have recently purchased about 15 acres of land near Chelford which is being developed. In the near future it is proposed to hold an open day, when this new experimental ground in Cheshire will be open for inspection. At the last meeting of the Court a certificate in Horticulture was approved, and this will provide an encouragement to those taking the two-year course in the subject. We have been impressed by the special problems of the practical growers in the north, and since the research work done elsewhere is mainly directed to the problems of the south, we have found that we have a most useful and important function to perform.

“For the first time since the outbreak of war we celebrated Founder’s Day on May 20th, when the following Honorary Degrees were conferred :

*Doctor of Laws.*

Dr. James Murray Crofts.

Mr. John Maynard Keynes (now Lord Keynes).

Professor William Henry Lang.

Mr. Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree.

*Doctor of Letters.*

Sir Richard Winn Livingstone.

*Doctor of Science.*

Dr. Francis Hugh Adam Marshall.

Lord Keynes and Sir Richard Livingstone replied on behalf of the new graduates and gave stimulating addresses.

“At the degree ceremonies in July the Honorary Degree of M.A. was conferred upon Mr. Walter Cobbett, Mr. H. N. Grundy, Mr. Joseph Hallsworth and Miss Margaret Pilkington; and that of M.Sc. upon Mr. G. E. Bailey, Dr. Henry Herd and Mr. R. U. Sayce.

“During the year the University has lost by death two beloved and stalwart supporters. Although his health had been causing alarm for some time, Dr. A. H. Worthington remained an active member of the Council up to the time of his death on September 4th, 1941. He was Chairman of the Council from 1924 to 1934, and probably no layman had a more intimate knowledge of universities than he possessed. For a long period of years he was unsparing in his efforts to promote the welfare and progress of all aspects of our work.

“The death of our good friend and colleague, Professor E. Fiddes, came as a great shock, since we had reason to believe that he was recovering from an attack of pneumonia when heart failure intervened. He had devoted his life to the University and had successively occupied to our great advantage the positions of Assistant Lecturer in Classics, Special Lecturer in Roman History, Secretary to Council and Senate, Registrar, Senior Tutor for Men Students, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Ward Professor of History, Professor Emeritus. Up to the time of his last illness he was frequently amongst us, and served as a member of the Press Committee, and during the war had very willingly given help in the Department of History. Many generations of students have reason to be grateful to him for his sympathetic help and advice, and our indebtedness to him in so many ways will ever be a cause for gratitude. He guided the University through many difficulties, and his leadership and wisdom were a tower of strength and to those who worked with him a lasting inspiration.

“Amongst many honours announced in my annual report, it is with particular pride and pleasure that I mention here the election of Professor A. R. Todd as a Fellow of the Royal Society, and Professor J. R. Hicks as a Fellow of the British Academy.

“ In conclusion I send you warmest greetings and all good wishes from everyone here.

“ Yours sincerely,

“ JOHN S. B. STOPFORD.”

At a meeting of the Court of Governors of the University, held on the 18th of November, Sir John Stopford declared that the University's innovation of a fourth term in the year had been a complete success.

FOURTH  
TERM AT  
UNIVERSITY.

Many letters had been received from other universities asking for advice on the question, for Manchester was the only University to adopt a fourth term throughout the whole of its departments.

Sir John expressed appreciation of the prompt way in which the City Council had answered the University's appeal for further teaching facilities for the Medical School in the event of the Royal Infirmary suffering such damage by enemy action as would limit their present arrangements by placing Withington Hospital at their disposal. It was a good omen for the future, because most people to-day realized that local authority hospitals had a greater part to play in medical education than in the past. Local authority hospitals and voluntary hospitals could play a complementary part. The Vice-Chancellor also thanked the Ancoats Hospital, the Salford Royal Hospital, and the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute for the supplementary teaching facilities they had provided for the period of the war.

Sir William Clare Lees, presenting his report as treasurer said they had come through the year with a small balance on the right side after making provision for expenditure that had been postponed because of the war. He gave a survey of the growth of the University's assets in the last twenty years. The college site and buildings were valued at £1,093,000—an increase of £378,000.

Detailing the increase in the value of investments, he said they were a large part of the resources that enabled them to offer University education to the students at about a quarter of its actual cost. Their total investments stood at £1,748,000—an



increase of about three-quarters of a million pounds over the twenty years. The details he gave included £907,000 in the funds devoted to professorships and £319,000 for fellowships and scholarships. They had formed forty-four new funds during the past twenty years, and created sixty-eight new fellowships and scholarships which were the equivalent of the fees of about 250 students. There was a balance of £126,000 in the appeal fund—all allocated to expenditure which could not be made until the end of the war.

The need for building after the war would tax all the Council's resources both in money and administrative ability. One of the most urgent claims was for extension of halls of residence, all of which, as they had heard from the Vice-Chancellor, were now full and had a waiting-list.

We deeply regret to have to announce the death of Sir Henry A. Miers, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.C.S., F.G.S., which occurred on Thursday, the 10th of December, at his residence at West Hampstead, in his 85th year.

SIR HENRY A. MIERS.
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Henry Alexander Miers, the third son of Francis Charles Miers, civil engineer, was born at Rio de Janeiro on the 25th of March, 1858. In 1872 he was elected a King's Scholar at Eton, where he won, in 1875, the Royal Geographical Society's Public School's gold medal. He was placed in the Newcastle select in 1876 and 1877, and in the latter year went to Trinity College, Oxford, where he had been elected to a classical scholarship. He took honours in both classical and mathematical Moderations. He graduated in 1881, proceeded M.A. in 1881 and D.Sc. in 1900, being the first to obtain the doctorate which had then been newly created.

His first appointment was to an assistantship in the Mineralogical Department of the British Museum, in 1883. He was chosen as a mathematical physicist, qualified to undertake research on the crystal morphology of the fine specimens to come under his care. He remained at the Museum until 1895, and published a large number of memoirs and articles on the results of his crystallographical researches. From 1886 to 1895 he

was also Instructor in Crystallography in the Central Technical College, South Kensington, and was editor of the "Mineralogical Magazine" from 1891 to 1900. In 1895 Miers was appointed Waynflete Professor of Mineralogy at Oxford. He was the first Waynflete Professor, and the first to be as such officially connected with Magdalen College, of which he was a Fellow. He organized laboratory teaching in Mineralogy, and improved the arrangement of the fine collection of minerals in the University Museum.

His organizing and administrative ability was soon detected and used as Junior Dean in Arts in 1898, and Vice-President of Magdalen College in 1902 to 1903, Secretary to the Delegates of the University Museum from 1902 to 1908, delegate of the University Press and for the examination of schools from 1901 to 1908, and member of the Hebdomadal Council from 1905 to 1908. He visited the Yukon goldfields in 1901 and reported to the Canadian Government in 1902.

Miers was nominated Fellow of Eton College in 1903, as representative of the Royal Society, and held office until his resignation in 1934. In October, 1908, he became Principal of the University of London, where with his experience in university administration he soon became familiar with the rapidly expanding activities of London. It was a matter of regret to him that no teaching duties were attached to the post in London, and in 1915 he was glad to accept the appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, because he was able to combine his administrative post with the specially created Professorship of Crystallography. His course of lectures was particularly opportune because Professor (now Sir) W. L. Bragg was then engaged on important investigations on the molecular structure of crystals by X-ray methods.

Sir Henry's knighthood was conferred upon him in 1912, and in coming to Manchester, in 1915, he was confronted with the problems of the war years which came between the end of the war and the year of his resignation in 1926; but with his rich experience and wise judgment Sir Henry was an admirable director of the University's fortunes, when the outlook was somewhat gloomy.

Under the terms of Sir Henry's appointment he was to hold office until September 30, 1923, and was due for retirement on that date, but by the unanimous wish of the authorities his appointment was extended for three years, and when he finally laid down the office it was felt that the whole city and not only the University was losing one who had put into practice the great ideals of civic service.

In 1918 Sir Henry was appointed to represent the University of Manchester on the Council of Governors of the John Rylands Library, and from 1920 to 1926 he was chairman of that body. In 1920 he was elected a Trustee of the Library, and in 1926 he was appointed honorary Governor, both of which were life appointments.

Upon his retirement from Manchester Sir Henry settled in London. His election as Trustee of the British Museum in 1926 led to his active participation in the movement to improve museums and galleries. He was a member of the Royal Commission on National Museums and Galleries appointed in 1927 and issued interim and final reports in 1928-1930, and in 1931 Sir Henry became a member of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries. In 1926 he had been invited by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees to undertake a survey of the public museums other than the national museums, in the British Isles, and his report appeared in 1928. It was so favourably received that the Carnegie Corporation of New York asked him to extend his survey to Canada and British Africa and other parts of the British Empire. The reports on Canada and British Africa appeared in 1932, and he was elected president of the Museums Association, and in 1932 he was president also of the Library Association.

While on the staff of the British Museum Miers had taken an interest in precious stones which he always retained, and in 1932 on the institution of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain he was elected the first president and held office until 1937. From its inception in 1929 Sir Henry was chairman of the Locust Control Committee of the Economic Advisory Council. He was appointed chairman of the Bodleian Library Commission. He was author of numerous papers and articles

on mineralogical and crystallographical subjects. He compiled a well-known textbook on Mineralogy, which appeared in 1902, the second edition of which, prepared by H. L. Bowman, was issued in 1929.

Such are some of the outstanding interests and achievements which filled to overflowing the active life of this eminent scholar. To quote the words of appreciation of Sir John Stopford : " His energy and vigour were exceptional, and throughout the years of his retirement he took an active interest in educational and allied affairs. He was approachable, kindly and sympathetic, and was beloved as well as respected by colleagues, students and all who enjoyed the privilege of coming into contact with him."

The centenary of the foundation of Didsbury College, Manchester, was celebrated in the College Chapel (St. Paul's), on the 22nd of September, when a great crowd of " Didsbury Men " assembled from all parts of the country to pay homage to the " Old Ship," a term of endearment which they employ between themselves when speaking of the home of so many happy and sacred memories.

DIDSBURY  
COLLEGE,  
MANCHESTER.

Didsbury is the oldest of the theological colleges established by the Methodists for the purpose, in the words of Dr. Adam Clark, of " educating workmen for the vineyard of our God."

In the early days the Methodists did not easily accept the idea that their ministers should receive special training for their vocation, but on the 22nd of September, 1842, the college was opened with thirty-six students in residence, and since that day hundreds of ministers known throughout the connexion for their learning and zeal have graduated from this famous institution.

Under war-time conditions it was not possible to make arrangements for celebrating the occasion as was originally contemplated. Under the circumstances, the outstanding event of the programme was the service in St. Paul's Chapel, to which 900 former students were invited, together with 200 Anglican and Free Church leaders, theological tutors, municipal authorities and other representative citizens.

The service, at which the centenary sermon was preached by Dr. F. Luke Wiseman (an old student and ex-president of the Methodist Conference), was preceded by a procession from the college in which the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Mayor of Salford, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester (Sir John S. B. Stopford), and the Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Guy Warman) took part.

The Principal of the College (the Rev. W. Bardsley Brash) welcomed "old friends and new." Prayers were read by Dr. C. J. Wright (ex-principal) and the Bishop. The prayers offered by the Bishop included thanks for the growing unity of the Christian Church, prayers for further unity, and prayers for all the cities of the neighbourhood, and for universities, colleges and schools.

Dr. Wiseman in the course of his sermon said that when he entered the college sixty-three years ago he did not think that he would be in that pulpit to preach the centenary sermon. The college had looked round on the good Methodist principle of *seniores priores*, but they could not find a *prior* and he was there as the oldest student, who at any rate was physically fit to stand before them.

Dr. Wiseman's text was the familiar "Paul planted, Apollos watered" passage in the first Epistle to the Corinthians, which contains the challenge, "Who is Paul? Who is Apollos?" He turned for the answer to one of the most careful portraits of the Acts of the Apostles. They were both of them trained men, he said, perhaps the only two who were really trained among those early preachers.

Dr. Wiseman quoted St. Luke's description of the Jew, "fervent in spirit, eloquent, accurately instructed in the way of the Lord." What more did he want? Sixty years ago they used to hear constantly: "We shouldn't send men like that to college." He quoted the counsel he himself received when he started preaching: "Doant 'e go to college, they'll spile 'e." "The Methodist Conference knew better," he said.

Of course there was danger—that people with ability who underwent training would become mere virtuosos. But the great artist (Dr. Wiseman was speaking at the moment of

musicians) kept his technique in the background. Two hundred years ago John Wesley asked Conference, "How are we going to get a place in which men can be taught?"

Didsbury College was not founded that it might rival the universities but that they might be instructed, even "certified," in the things that were surely believed among them—not because they had been taught them but because they had been taught they were to be surely realised by them. Being denied a place in the Church by the authorities of the Church of England, they had to find their way to God, and they found it. At Didsbury great work had been done on the Divinity and Person of Christ, and a noble and more recent work on the Holy Spirit.

At a meeting in the evening presided over by the Principal, short tributes to Didsbury, and testimonies to happy memories of life there and its influence were paid by a number of distinguished ex-students and others, including the President of the Conference (the Rev. W. J. Noble), the ex-Presidents, the Rev. W. H. Armstrong, Dr. Lansdell Wardle, and the ex-Principal (Dr. T. H. Barratt).

An interesting centenary volume under the title "Didsbury College Centenary, 1842-1942," edited by W. Bardsley Brash and Charles J. Wright, has been issued by the Epworth Press. It contains more than a dozen delightful memories of men who have passed through the College, and we offer our congratulations to the editors upon this happy memorial of the Centenary.

The Manchester Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem met together on the 16th of September to celebrate the seventeenth anniversary of its foundation and to hear an address by Professor Norman Bentwich, in which he gave a most reassuring account of the successful growth of the University during the sixteen years of its activity, which encouraged them to look forward to a career of great usefulness.

It must have come as a surprise to many of those who took part in the meeting, as it did to the writer of these paragraphs, to learn of the extraordinary development which had taken place since its inauguration in 1925 with a very modest equipment.

THE HEBREW  
UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JERUSALEM.

From those small beginnings it has developed two full faculties of the humanities and of the mathematical and natural sciences. A pre-faculty of medicine with an admirably equipped Hospital and Medical Research Centre, also a pre-faculty of Agriculture which is linked up with a scientific experimental section.

To-day it has an academic staff of upwards of one hundred and fifty members, including men of world-wide reputation.

The undergraduates during the last two years have numbered some twelve hundred, drawn from all the countries of the world, in addition to which there are nearly one hundred post-graduate students engaged in research. During the year under review no fewer than sixty-nine degrees were awarded.

The most remarkable of all the recent expansions, upon which Professor Bentwich rightly laid great emphasis, has been the inauguration of a Faculty of Agriculture and the opening of agricultural laboratories, which will enable the Faculty to concentrate upon farm management. It offers a full course of five years, of which two are spent in the study of natural sciences in Jerusalem and two at the Experimental Station at Rehovoth, where the University is building the College of Agriculture.

The year under review has seen also an extension of the work of the Cancer Research and other departments of the Medical Research Centre.

The Museum of Archæology which is to house the Record of Palestine and the Jewish people through the ages has been completed, and also the extension of the National Library, which now possesses upwards of 400,000 volumes.

The expulsion of Jewish students and teachers from the Nazi-ridden countries of Europe has made of this University a haven and a citadel of the Jewish mind, with the result that it can claim to-day to be the greatest refugee University in the world, and bids fair to become without qualification one of the most distinguished seats of learning.

Directly and indirectly the University is playing its part in the titanic struggle in which the world is engaged. Two hundred students have volunteered for service in the war and are serving in different units of the British Army. Other five

hundred have registered for service when called upon, and at the commencement of the present academic year the University authorities announced that no unmarried student would be admitted unless he had a certificate from the Jewish recruiting authorities in Palestine that he was unfit for military service.

The maintenance of the University and its present activities is a service to this country and to the war effort as well as a service to science and freedom of thought, and is the finest answer to the ruthless war on the mind which is being waged by the Nazis.

We offer hearty congratulations to our Jewish Friends upon the success they have achieved.

The authorities of the Jewish National Library, to which brief reference has been made in the preceding paragraphs, would have commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation on the 29th of July of the present year had normal conditions prevailed, but in consequence of the prevailing war conditions no formal celebration was undertaken. A short report on the history and progress of the Library has been issued, from which we reproduce some facts relating to its development and the growth of its collections during the fifty years that have elapsed since its foundation.

THE JEWISH  
NATIONAL  
LIBRARY.

When the Library was opened in Jerusalem, in 1892, its founders hoped that some day it would develop into a great National Library for the whole of the Jewish people, and a step towards that ideal was taken in 1925, when the Hebrew University was opened.

It was in that year that the University took over the institution and it has since served both as a Jewish National Library and as a University Library. In the latter capacity it serves the purposes of research and study in all the arts and sciences.

In 1930 a new building was erected for the Library in the University grounds on Mount Scopus.

The collections now aggregate well over 400,000 volumes, which are available to readers from all over the country without distinction of race or creed.

As a Jewish National Library the institution is particularly



concerned with the collection of books in the fields of Hebraica, Judaica and Palestinensia.

The number of volumes in Hebrew characters (in Hebrew and various Jewish dialects) has now reached 55,000, and is said to constitute one of the greatest collections of Hebraica in the world. The collection of Hebrew incunabula is one of the largest extant.

The Library also has a notable department of Arabic literature, which has been built up around the collection of the late Ignaz Goldziher, the famous orientalist.

The manuscript collection consists of 1871 volumes, mostly in Hebrew.

Since 1924 the Library has regularly published a Hebrew bibliographical quarterly, "Kirjath Sepher." All new books in the field of Palestinensia, Hebraica and Judaica are systematically recorded in this journal. In addition, articles on Hebrew bibliography, the history of Hebrew printing, Judaica, and manuscripts in the Library's collections, appear regularly in its pages.

The Library is an unique institution serving the only Hebrew University in the world, promoting learning in the awakening Middle East and providing a centre for Jewish culture in Palestine.

The year 1942 marks the millenary of the death of Saadya Ben Joseph (Said al Fayyum), Jewish Rabbi.

He was born at Dilaz in Upper Egypt in 882, and his death at the age of sixty occurred at Sura in Babylonia.

Nothing is known of his youth and education, nor are his teachers named, but he must have acquired a very extensive knowledge as is shown by his writings.

He was a fighter for Israel, its unity and established tradition. His only concern was to preserve the unity necessary for the survival of scattered Israel.

In the many other struggles against opponents of traditional Judaism he fought fearlessly with great personal courage, and did not allow himself to be carried away by passions. His fight was for right and justice.

It was in his twentieth year that he completed his first great work, the Hebrew Dictionary, which he entitled "Agron," thus apparently beginning the activity which was to prove so

important in opposition to Karaism and other heresies, and in the defence of traditional Judaism.

In 915 he left Egypt to settle in Palestine, for what reason is not known.

In 928 he was elected Gaon, or Principal, of the ancient academy of Sura, which then entered upon a new period of brilliancy. In 930 he retired to Bagdad, which was the centre of Judaism and a flourishing Jewish community.

Saadya was a representative of the "Peshat," or literal interpretation, a creator of Hebrew philology, and the promoter of a new school of exegesis, characterized by a rational investigation of the contents and scientific knowledge of the text. His work was characterized by treating each book as a whole and the contents as a unity by his minuteness of exegesis. Furthermore his style in translation and in authorship aimed at simple form and pure vocabulary.

He is distinguished for his translations of the Pentateuch, Job, the Psalms, Canticles and other books of the Bible into Arabic with brief annotations, for his grammatical and lexical works, and above all for his "Book of Articles of Faith and Doctrine of Dogma," in Arabic, completed in 933. It was the first systematic presentation and philosophic foundation of the dogmas of Judaism.

In his philosophy he surveyed the entire field of doctrine ranging from the idea of God to ethics in the light of reason and revelation.

After Philo, Saadya was the first great writer in post-Biblical Judaism. Like Philo he called Egypt his fatherland. A complete edition of those of his writings which have been preserved either in their entirety or in fragments was begun by Joseph Derembourg in 1892 in honour of the millenary of his birth, which is expected to fill ten volumes.

A volume of Saadya Studies is in preparation in commemoration of the thousandth anniversary of Saadya's death. It will consist of fourteen essays, and is intended to be Anglo-Jewry's contribution to the Saadya Anniversary.

SAADYA  
STUDIES.

It is the aim of the individual papers, as well as of the volume as a whole, to throw fresh light on various aspects of Saadya's literary activity, and to contribute to our knowledge of the important pioneering efforts of the first great exponent of Jewish learning in the past.

Hebrew grammar and lexicography, Biblical exegesis, both in translation and comment, poetry, religious philosophy, theology and liturgy are represented. In addition important fragments of hitherto unknown or unpublished writings of Saadya are reproduced in facsimile or in a critical edition.

The list of contributors includes the names of Professor Dr. E. Robertson, Rabbi Dr. A. Altmann, Professor Dr. S. Krauss, Professor Dr. Eugen Mittwoch, and Dr. Erwin I. J. Rosenthal, who will edit the volume, and there will be a Foreword by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz.

The volume will be published by the Manchester University Press.

The tenth annual conference of the British Records Association, of which the Master of the Rolls (Rt. Hon. Wilfrid Arthur, Lord Greene, O.B.E., M.C.), is PRESERVATION OF BRITISH RECORDS. President, took place at Vintners' Hall, London, on the 17th November.

The annual report is a most interesting and informing document, which describes the Association's attempts to mitigate the results of ill-educated enthusiasm for paper salvage.

One very valuable achievement was the organization of about 340 local representatives who were willing to advise on what old papers should be preserved.

One of the features of the conference was a small exhibition of documents which had suffered in air raids and illustrated another side of the Association's work. The exhibit included church registers from the Temple Church, and from St. John's Church, Smith Square, London, which showed how paper documents damaged by heat can be "framed" with edges of newspaper plus sometimes the application of a silk gauze, and resizing; also how a parchment volume, badly shrunk and distorted, can, by patient damping and

smoothing out with the thumbs, be restored almost to its original dimensions.

One set of sixteenth and seventeenth-century accounts of the Armourers' and Braziers' Company, which was on view, had been rescued, when just about to putrefy, after it had been for some weeks in a flooded vault. The paper leaves, after having been separated, flattened, dried, and resized, hardly show a trace of damage. Records of the Salters' Company were saved from a strong room which for several days had been an oven hot enough to char the leather bindings to cinders. Here the paper documents, after treatment, show little damage, and the vellum charters have lost little except their seals, which have disappeared.

Some modern documents from a solicitor's office show what can be done with papers charred black, not perhaps by way of permanent repair, but by mounting them between sheets of cellophane, so that they can be handled and, with patient manipulation in the light, read.

It is noted with much satisfaction the helpful attitude of a large proportion of the important authorities that have been approached. The Parochial Clergy in thirty or more Dioceses have had their attention called to the work of the Association by a message from their Bishop, with the express approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A new series of single-page leaflets "Memoranda" have been issued at small cost, which give specific instruction with regard to classes of Records to be preserved and similar matters.

The secretaries of the Association will be glad to furnish guidance to any enquirers at the office of the Association, 8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C. 2.

Twelve months ago we had the pleasure to welcome the publication of that very vivid biography of Mrs. Thrale-Piozzi, by James L. Clifford, much of the material for which had been drawn from the con-  
temporary evidence to be found in the large collection of "Johnsoniana" in the Rylands Library.

THE DIARY  
OF MRS.  
THRALE-  
PIOZZI.

Now, it is our pleasure to welcome the two fine volumes of

"Thraliana" which have been edited from the original manuscripts of the six handsome commonplace books of the Diarist, now in the Henry Huntington Library, by Miss Katherine C. Balderston, of Wellesley College, and published by the Oxford University Press.

In the course of her work Miss Balderston spent much time in the Rylands Library, and drew upon the Rylands Collection of "Johnsoniana," which were obtained from the same source as the "Thraliana."

The story of "Thraliana" may be briefly told as follows: In 1776 Mr. Thrale gave to his wife six handsome manuscript volumes to be kept as commonplace books, which she faithfully did for the next thirty years. The nature of the book is indicated in the first entry: "It is many years since Doctor Samuel Johnson advised me to get a little Book, and write in it all the little Anecdotes which might come to my knowledge, all the Observations I might make or hear; all the Verses never likely to be published, and in fine, ev'rything which struck me at the Time. Mr. Thrale has now treated me with a Repository, and provided it with the pompous Title of Thraliana; I must endeavour to fill it with Nonsense new and old;" and fill it she did, with a mixture of diary and extracts and anecdotes.

The volumes have been used as a source of information by many writers, notably by Mr. J. L. Clifford for his recent life of Mrs. Piozzi, but they have never been edited or printed before. Apart from their interest to Johnsonians as a necessary complement to Boswell, they give an intimate picture of the life of a famous blue-stockings, and they provide a fine feast of varied and entertaining fare; Mrs. Thrale had a fluent and witty pen, an insatiable curiosity, and a flair for anecdote, and every good thing that came her way was set down in "Thraliana."

We congratulate Miss Balderston upon the completion of this monumental piece of work. We have seen that lady at her work-table and we have been able to form an excellent idea of the thoroughness of her work, even before it came to fruition.

We also offer our congratulations to the Clarendon Press upon the excellence of their work in the production of these two handsome volumes.

In consequence of the lighting restrictions still imposed under the Air Raid Precautions the regular evening series of public lectures has been suspended for the time being, and a short series of afternoon lectures has been substituted, to commence at three o'clock during the ensuing session.

RYLANDS  
PUBLIC  
LECTURES.

Wednesday, 14th October, 1942. "Browning's Ethical Poetry." By H. B. Charlton, M.A., Professor of English Literature in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 11th November, 1942. "Are there Human Instincts?" By T. H. Pear, M.A., B.Sc., Professor of Psychology in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 9th December, 1942. "Food for Gods and Men in Ancient Sumer (Third Millennium B.C.)." By T. Fish, Ph.D., Special Lecturer in Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 13th January, 1943. "The Life of Jesus : a Survey of the Available Material." By T. W. Manson, M.A., Litt.D., D.D., Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 10th February, 1943. "Dame Juliana Berners." By E. F. Jacob, M.A., D.Phil., Professor of Medieval History in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 10th March, 1943. "The Torah as the Key to the Old Testament." By Edward Robertson, D.Litt., D.D., Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 14th April, 1943. "Early Franciscan Art and Literature" (with lantern pictures). By John R. H. Moorman, B.D., Rector of Fallowfield, Manchester.

The following is a list of publications, consisting of articles which have appeared in the two latest issues of the BULLETIN.

RECENT  
RYLANDS  
PUBLICA-  
TIONS.

"Hamlet." By H. B. Charlton, M.A., Professor of English Literature in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 24. Price eighteenpence net.

- "Letters from the War Front in Ancient Mesopotamia." By T. Fish, Ph.D., Special Lecturer in Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price eighteenpence net.
- "The Dawn of the Revival of Learning." By Henry Guppy, C.B.E., Litt.D., Librarian of the John Rylands Library. 8vo, pp. 36. Price two shillings net.
- "The Collapse of France in 1419-20." By E. F. Jacob, M.A., D.Phil., Professor of Medieval History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price eighteenpence net.
- "St. Paul in Ephesus: (4) The Corinthian Correspondence." By T. W. Manson, D.Litt., D.D., Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 18. Price eighteenpence net.
- "Contemporary Poetry and Drama in Greece." By Alexander A. Matsas, Secretary to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs. 8vo, pp. 20. Price eighteenpence net.
- "Greece's Rôle as a Balkan and Mediterranean Power." By A. Michalopoulos, C.B.E., F.R.S.A., M.A., Greek Minister of Information. 8vo, pp. 12. Price eighteenpence net.
- "Selected Cheshire Seals (12th-17th century) from the collections in the John Rylands Library." By F. Taylor, M.A., Ph.D., Keeper of Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library. 8vo, pp. 20, with facsimiles. Price eighteenpence net.
- "The Priestley Code: the Legislation of the Old Testament and Graf-Wellhausen." By Edward Robertson, D.Litt., D.D., Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 24. Price eighteenpence net.

The following titles represent a selection of the works added to the shelves of the Library since the publication of our last issue.

ART: BEAUMONT (Cyril W.), "Supplement to Complete Book of Ballets," 8vo; BEAZLEY (J. D.), "Attic Red-figure Vase-painters," 8vo; BLUNT (A.), "François Mansart and the Origins of French Classical Architecture," 8vo; GAUNT (J.), "Hollar, a Czech Emigré in England," 8vo.

GENERAL  
ACCESSIONS  
TO THE  
LIBRARY.

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