

thing more than that in the educational system of the country. Carried out on right lines, the institution would educate every youth for whom education was mainly a means of entering a profession or trade, and it would give him that side of his training which he could not get in the practice of his trade or profession. He would also have to some extent contact with a portion of scholastic work, and a love of learning could be instilled into him to a certain degree; he would have contact with the latest science and art in the particular profession he intended to take up.

Mr. BEVAN-BROWN thought that in the smaller centres such a composite institution as had been referred to might find a place, but he was of opinion that in the larger towns, where the expense could be met, differentiation of schools was needed. He was not in favour of huge educational factories, so to speak, with various departments of the most diverse character; in such institutions there could be no corporate life.

Mr. HILL regretted exceedingly that this subject had been deferred to so late a period of the Conference. It seemed to him perhaps the most important subject they had to discuss—the relationship that ought to exist between the primary and secondary schools and the technical schools. They all understood—at least, those connected with primary-school work did—that we had what was called a scheme of primary education. Every teacher knew what that meant. A teacher was aware of the work that had to be done, and the course that had to be pursued in passing from standard to standard. During the last twenty years he had taken some interest in the subject of the relationship that should exist between the primary schools and the secondary schools, and he had inquired now and again into the work that the secondary schools attempted to do. It was said that we had a secondary-education system. If any one were to ask him at the present time what the system was he could not tell him. They had not a system under the same kind of organizing influences and direction as existed in the case of the primary schools. Twenty-five of the high schools had each a system of its own, and it was time these were brought into line. If they had had a secondary-school system, he maintained they would not have had the difficulties they had had in relation to the children who passed the primary schools obtaining secondary education. It seemed to him that they ought to try to determine what was the work that should be done in the secondary schools by pupils who passed through the primary schools, and also the work that should be done in the technical schools.

Mr. HOGBen (speaking from the floor of the chamber) said he had left the chair in order that, without taking undue advantage of his position as Chairman, he might reply to some of the points raised by Mr. Howell. It had been recognized by many people for some time past that this question of departmental schools—he thought that was a happier term than vocational schools, because the vocational schools, he took it, were still further specialized—it had been felt that this question of departmental schools was an extremely difficult one. We could not solve it for many years to come as it might be solved in countries with a large and close population. Unless they were to have a very much more extensive system of education than they had now, they must have institutions with several functions. If they were to separate them, it could only be done at present in the four large centres. During his recent visit to Europe and America he had spent a great deal of time in making inquiries as to the relations between the departmental schools, special kinds of secondary schools, and the ordinary or older type of secondary school. The results of his investigations were given in an Education Department paper entitled “Schools and other Educational Institutions in Europe and America (Report of the Inspector-General’s Visit to).” Mr. Hogben then outlined the systems adopted in some other countries, as fully set forth in his report.

University and Training Colleges.

The question, “The work of the University and the University colleges, and of the training colleges in relation thereto,” was then further considered.

Professor KIRK moved, That, in order to prevent overlapping of work and to secure the highest efficiency, it is desirable that in each training college no teaching should be given in subjects in which lectures are given in the University college of the district. He admitted that at present it was necessary to take into the training colleges students who could not always benefit from all the lectures of the University college; but, from what he had seen, the training-college students were every year improving, and they might look forward to the time very soon when all these students would reach the matriculation standard—even the improved matriculation standard. If the time and money spent at training colleges on the work referred to in his resolution could be expended in the University colleges, it would certainly, it seemed to him, be to the advantage of the students.

Mr. GRAY seconded the motion. If the staff of the University colleges were sufficiently strong, much better work could be done in certain subjects than could possibly be done in the training colleges with the somewhat limited equipment of the training colleges.

Mr. MILNES said he quite agreed with the principle underlying Professor Kirk’s motion.

Mr. COUSINS moved as an amendment, That, in order to prevent overlapping in the work and to secure higher efficiency, in each training college no teaching should be given which is covered by the lectures in the University college of the district.

Mr. MORTON seconded the amendment.

Mr. HILL moved, That the question relating to training colleges be referred to the Training College Conference.

Mr. BALLANTYNE seconded this amendment.

Mr. Hill’s amendment agreed to.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Press.

Mr. FLEMING moved, That the Conference conveys its thanks to the Minister of Education (the Hon. G. Fowlds) for calling this Conference together, and requests him to consider the desirability of calling such general conferences periodically.

Mr. WATKINS seconded the motion.

Motion agreed to.