

## POONA UNIVERSITY

THE announcement by the Government of Bombay to give effect to the recommendations of the Maharashtra University Committee in due course on certain terms and conditions is most welcome.

The Bombay Presidency Education Conference under the presidency of Sir Narayan Chandavarkar adopted a resolution in favour of regional universities for the presidency as long back as 1917. In 1924, the Committee on University Reform, presided over by Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, recommended the creation of universities in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnatak and Sind, and reported that conditions were ripe for the setting up of some form of university for Maharashtra in Poona. In 1933, as a result of representations made by certain leaders of Maharashtra, a conference of educationists and representatives of other interests was convened to discuss the policy of gradual establishment of regional universities in the Province of Bombay. As this conference could not come to unanimity of opinion in favour of any scheme, nothing further was done. In 1941, a representative deputation waited on the Adviser to H.E. the Governor of Bombay to press the question of a University for Maharashtra and as a result, a committee, presided over by the Right Honourable Dr. M. R. Jayakar, was appointed to consider the question of the establishment of a University for Maharashtra in all its aspects.

The Jayakar Committee did monumental work for a period of over a year and submitted a report to Government which will stand for a good length of time as a document of great value. The Committee has considered in great detail all types of university education and evolved a type which incorporates many good features of various types with due deference to the requirements of Maharashtra and to the several financial difficulties. The Committee has recommended the establishment of a University for Maharashtra in Poona, to be called "The University of Poona". At Poona, there is to be built up a

strong teaching and research centre. As far as possible, most of the post-Intermediate work is to be done in Poona with the pooling of the resources of all the existing institutions. Colleges outside Poona which are situated within the Marathi-speaking area of the Province should teach up to the Intermediate stage. The University is to be of an affiliating type only up to the Intermediate stage but there is a proviso for a large measure of University supervision even at this stage. This is most desirable and very welcome. The teaching for higher classes is to be the direct responsibility of the University. Special provision is to be made for the systematic supervision over the lodging of students. There is to be an Appointments Board also. One important aspect of the work of the University will be the introduction of Marathi as a medium of instruction and examination. This is a feature which will be watched with interest all over the country. The several authorities of the University are similar to those elsewhere. A special feature, however, is the fact that elections have been reduced to a minimum and the academic and non-academic bodies are clearly defined.

Poona is one of the largest educational centres in India and has several well-established colleges and research institutions. The contribution of the several scholars from Poona to the advancement of knowledge is well known. The climate of Poona is very conducive to intensive work for the greater part of the year. Marathi is one of the few well-developed languages of the country with a good and growing literature. The establishment of a university at Poona is, therefore, most appropriate. We look forward to its establishment as a welcome step for the advancement of higher education and research in the Province of Bombay in particular and in India in general. We have no doubt this will relieve the great strain that is placed on the University of Bombay which is now catering to the vast and varied requirements of the whole Province and Sind.

## THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY recently celebrated the centenary of the Royal College of Science, one of its constituent colleges—the other two being the Royal School of Mines and the City and Guilds College. The Royal College of Chemistry, the original of the Royal College of Science, was sponsored at a meeting held on July 29th 1845, in the early days at the dawn of an Industrial Age. It has been staffed by such eminent scientists as Sir W. H. Perkin and Sir William Tilden, who made striking and fundamental contribution to our knowledge in pure and applied chemistry. The college has played a

notable part in winning the last War, and is looking forward to getting into its peace-time stride, and helping British Industries to re-establish themselves in the world markets. "The fundamental need is the highest degree of efficiency in our production. No exporter can win markets unless the quality, price and design enable him to sell the goods. Price is a measure of our efficiency. We cannot and must not try to attain a low price by cutting wages. We must attain it by increased efficiency and cutting costs."—This is the ardour with which the College enters its second century