FROM THE ARCHIVES

University College of Technology, Madras

Facilities for higher technological studies in the Madras area will henceforth be available at the new University College of Technology, which is for the present located as a temporary measure in the Government College of Engineering, Guindy. The inauguration of this College is well timed as there will be a great demand for chemical engineers and technologists in the post-war era of industrial reconstructions and developments in this country. Considerable progress has already been made under the auspices of the BSIR in various branches of Chemical Industries and a number of new processes have been developed in recent years. In order to preserve this progress, and to develop further processes in a keenly competitive world in the post-war years specialised chemical engineering talent and technological grounding and skill will be in great demand. It is, therefore, a happy augury that the Madras University has pushed forward with its arrangements for contributing to meet these very essential national demands. Parallel courses in Chemical Engineering, Leather Technology, Textile Chemistry, Electrochemistry, Fermentation Technology, etc., are under contemplation, but a beginning has been made this year with the Chemical Engineering course, through the kind courtesy of the Government of Madras, who have made available to the University the vast resources of the engineering laboratories and the workshop facilities at their College of Engineering, Guindy. The College is promised a substantial financial aid by way of a munificent grant from Dr Rm. Alagappa Chettiar, of more than Rs 3 lakhs non-recurring, and an annual recurring grant of Rs 25,000. The Government of Madras are also giving generous grants towards the building, equipment and maintenance of the College which has been so boldly ventured upon by the University in these difficult times from out of its own funds.

A good start has already been made with the appointment of highly qualified staff. Dr D. R. Nanjee, who comes out shortly to India after nearly twenty years of experience in England, both in the Universities and as a Consulting Chemist, will be the Professor and Director of the College, while Dr M. A. Govinda Rau, who has successfully organised and conducted the courses in Chemical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, will be the Reader in charge of Chemical Engineering.

Great credit is due to the learned and enthusiastic Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dewan Bahadur Dr A. L. Mudaliar, for it was he who proposed the scheme nearly three years ago and should now be justly most happy at these successful results of his tireless efforts. We congratulate Dr A. L. Mudaliar and the University on the occasion of the Inauguration of the new College by His Excellency the Governor on the 28th of this month. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws will be conferred upon Dr Rm. Alagappa Chettiar at a special Convocation held on the same occasion.