

# The Classical Review

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Universities multiply, and London treads hard upon the heels of Birmingham.

The Statutes made for the new teaching University by Lord Davey and his colleagues, and embracing 136 Clauses were signed on Feb. 13, and become effective so soon as they have received the Royal Assent. We would cordially endorse the conclusion of the official Report. The Commissioners state that—'They cannot but feel that statutes and regulations will not make a living University—large funds will be required for the remuneration of University Professors and Lecturers, and the provision and maintenance of Libraries, Museums, Laboratories, and Workshops; that it is not for them to suggest the source from which the funds shall be derived; but they venture to suggest a hope that Parliament, no less than the municipal authorities of London, will recognize the claims of the re-constituted University, and that national and municipal resources may be supplemented by the private munificence of those who desire a University worthy of the capital of the British Empire.' It may be questioned whether the 'large funds' of which the Report speaks will be voted by Parliament whilst, as Ennius has it, *Africa terribili tremit horrida terra tumultu*; but we commend to the City Companies and to all whom it may concern, the maxim of the same author, *da, quidquid des, celere*.

The *Classical Review* has long declined the melancholy office of chronicling the losses of learning: but the death of a contributor before his contribution could be published may well be held to justify some deviation from practice. In Sir W. D. Geddes we lose a trusty and eager friend of classical education and scholarship. His advocacy of the Elmerian doctrine of the Latin prohibitive, into which he threw himself with

all the ardour of a neophyte, was to have been completed by a tabulated account of the Ciceronian usage. A summary of the evidence for this portion of his thesis, will appear in our next issue.

Another proof of the re-awakened interest in the question of a Universal language is to be found in the address of Professor H. Diels to the Royal Academy of Berlin. It is a Festrede delivered on the birthday of Leibnitz and does full honour to the contributions of the great savant towards the solution of the problem. Prof. Diels passes under review the various possibilities. From the standpoint of practical politics Prof. Diels concludes that 'apart from the enormous political influence which North America and Great Britain with her colonies exert in the history of the world, and apart from the preponderance which is given to the English-speaking peoples through their mere numerical superiority, the English tongue seems, from its whole structure, predestined to be a universal language.' Then follows an admirable characterization of the qualifications of our language, from which we may quote the noticeable remark that it is 'durch die Zurückziehung auf die Wurzeln eine für ein Herrschervolk vorzüglich geeignete Commando-sprache geworden.' From the same page we learn that English has been adopted as the official language by a 'neighbouring academy.' The end of the address deals with the claims of neo-Latin (which Prof. Diels most rightly refuses to identify with Ciceronian or any literary Latin) to be the medium of scientific communication. Its adoption is recommended with a 'perhaps,' and as it would seem, as a counsel of perfection. We are glad to see that the subject may be dealt with at the Inter-University Congress which is to meet at Wiesbaden.