

CENTENARIES

Johnson, William Woolsey (1841-1927)

WILLIAM WOOLSEY JOHNSON, an American mathematician, was born of a lawyer and landowner at Owego, New York, June 23, 1841. He graduated at Yale in his twenty-first year and entered the United States Nautical Almanac Office. After two years, he became instructor in mathematics at the Naval Academy and remained as such throughout his life except for his sojourn as professor of mathematics at the Kenyon College, Ohio, during 1870-72 and at St. John's College during 1872-81.

Johnson was one of the founders of the American Mathematical Society. He was a popular lecturer and a clear writer. Between 1869 and 1901 he wrote seven books, of which Indian students would remember *A treatise of ordinary and partial differential equations* (1889). His most voluminous book was *The elements of differential and integral calculus*, 3V. (1874-76).

Johnson died May 14, 1927.

Cullingworth, Charles James (1841-1908)

CHARLES JAMES CULLINGWORTH, a British gynaecologist, was born of a bookseller at Leeds June 3, 1841. After school education and a few years' employment in his father's business, he had a brilliant career at the Leeds School of Medicine and became M.R.C.S. in

1865. After a short spell of private practice in rural areas, he entered the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1867. His special work began in 1873 when he was appointed honorary surgeon to the St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children at Manchester. In 1885 he became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Owen's College. In 1888 he migrated to London as obstetric physician of St. Thomas's Hospital.

In 1902 Cullingworth delivered the Brodshawe lecture on *Intraperitoneal hemorrhage incident to ectopic gestation*. He was one of the founders of the Obstetrical Society of London and of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the British Empire*.

Cullingworth was prominent in the movement for the registration of midwives. When the Midwives Act came into force in 1902, he was appointed to the Central Midwives Board. He was a great pioneer in gynaecology. His most original book was *Clinical illustrations of the diseases of fallopian tubes and of tubal gestation* (1895). The views expressed by him in 1892 in a paper entitled *The value of abdominal section in certain cases of recurrent peritonitis based on personal experience of fifty cases* were greatly discussed and were ultimately accepted.

Cullingworth died in London May 11, 1908.

S. R. RANGANATHAN.

University Library,
Madras.

THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOARD, INDIA

THE brief Report of the Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting (Trivandrum, 1941) of the Inter-University Board, recently published, contains as usual, several items of interest to those who are concerned with the development of higher education in India. It sets forth the opinions of the various universities of India on certain matters, and the decisions of the Board as a whole in regard to certain others. Special reference may be made here to three of the most outstanding problems considered by the Board: Military Training of university students, mutual recognition of degrees among Indian universities, and reorganization of secondary education.

In the present unsettled state of the world it is but natural that the question of imparting military training to students should have come to the forefront. Apart from the more general question of maintaining physical fitness among the educated classes, the problem of defending the country against foreign aggression seems to demand immediate consideration. In this connection, therefore, the Board has done well to suggest not merely the further extension of the present U.T.C. arrangements but also the intro-

duction of military science as a subject of study in college classes. This is a sound move provided, of course, it is not thought that a nation can be rendered militarily efficient by reading about military matters in books.

The mutual recognition of degrees among Indian universities is undoubtedly a most desirable step. The want of such recognition has adversely affected students in the pursuit of higher education, retarding their free migration from one university area to another. After all, when the question is squarely put as to what has prevented, and still prevents, Indian universities from taking this step, perhaps the answer in most cases will be, not any desire to claim superiority, but some administrative trifle, or mere parochialism, which is altogether out of place in the academic world. The sooner this anomaly is removed the better for education.

The reorganization of secondary education is by far the most important question discussed by the Board. It is a problem, however, whose solution cannot be regarded as having been achieved, in spite of repeated consideration by the Board at three separate sittings. Resolution