

but so far no company is prepared to take me in. This is the fate of many other Government scholars in this country. It is time that the Government did something in regard to arranging for practical training."

The situation is not much different in U.K. Last April at the National Union of Students' Congress, held in Liverpool, both Indian and other foreign students protested against the ban on the admission of non-British students to certain factories in Britain. Mr. Marshall of the Metropolitan Vickers, regretting the ban as unfortunate, said that it was a Government ruling and could not be helped. The ruling appears, to say the least, rather anomalous when viewed in the light of the generous invitations of the British Government to India to take advantage of the facilities for Technical training in Great Britain. And it is well known that we are seeking the co-operation of the technically advanced countries more for the benefit of practical training of our students in industries not yet established in India rather than for high academic accomplishments. We learn that the Chinese Government have been able to negotiate with a number of industrial firms in America for entertaining their students. The extension of similar hospitality to India by Britain and U.S.A. at a time when it is most needed will be a friendly gesture that is bound to be greatly appreciated.

### LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

WE are informed that the Council for Technical Education has appointed an Expert Committee to consider the subject of training laboratory technicians and submit concrete proposals for a comprehensive scheme. All scientific workers will agree that such a scheme of training has been long overdue in this country.

As conditions obtain at present, much of the valuable time of the research worker is spent in getting ready the routine apparatus and reagents required for his specialised experiment which will perhaps occupy only a fraction of the time he had to spend on the preliminaries. No doubt advanced and elderly workers can command their students to do these for them. But it will be realised that the students, although they must

go through this mill for their own good, are not exactly meant for this job. The result of all this is the unnecessary overworking of the scientist and an obvious slowing down of the pace of scientific research.

On the other hand, in the advanced laboratories of the West the scientist need only confine himself to the working out of the precisely specific problem of research he has set himself to accomplish. The trained laboratory technician cleans the apparatus, prepares the reagents, does the weighings, cuts sections, carries out simple glass-blowing, recovery-distillations, etc., as per the instructions of the research worker, leaving him more time for the essential library and laboratory work. No wonder, therefore, that both the quality and quantity of scientific work turned out by such workers easily excel that of the worker who has to be a mere hack. The need for training large numbers of technicians is all the more pressing in view of the very limited research talent in the country which must be strictly rationed out and devoted to tasks that only trained scientists can do.

A word for the technician himself. Recently Prof. Haldane mentioned that many a young man starting as a laboratory technician has graduated himself to eminent chairs of science in European and American Universities. This speaks not only of the potentialities of some of the people who are compelled by circumstances and natural accidents of life to start from the lowest rung of the ladder but of the generous universities who are always on the alert to exploit scientific talent wherever it is to be found. We are sure that the experts on the Committee will so formulate the scheme of training that opportunities for training oneself as an original investigator are not wanting for those technicians who have it in them to develop into good scientists.

The dearth of laboratory technicians is now so great and the need for a continuous supply of them will be so persistent that it would be advisable for large institutions to establish a standard course to be recommended by the expert Committee as a regular feature among their courses of training. Men so trained, it is needless to say, will be readily absorbed by industrial, technical and public health laboratories as well as by universities and research institutions to the obvious benefit of all.

### WATUMULL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

THE Watumull Foundation announces the award of ten Watumull Research Fellowships in Indian Universities to the following candidates:—*Agriculture*: Mr. O. N. Mehrotra, J.K. Fellow, College of Agricultural Research, Benares Hindu University; and Mr. K. M. Shahani, Imperial Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore. *Education*: Mrs. Leelavati M. Rao, Child Education and Psychology, Allahabad University; and Mr. L. J. Bhatt, Lecturer in Education and Psychology, Teachers' Training College, Baroda. *Chemistry*: Mr. Jyotirmoy

Bhattacharya, Demonstrator, Applied Chemistry, Science College, Calcutta. *Economics*: Mr. Premchand Srivastava, Lecturer in Economy, Jain College, Arrah, U.P. *Political Science*: Mr. K. L. Srivatsava, Professor of Politics, Christian College, Indore. *Physics*: Mr. Biswanath Bhattacharya, Benares Hindu University. *Medicine*: Dr. D. R. Nagpal, Lady Linsithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli. *Mathematics*: Prof. Surya Prakash, Professor of Mathematics, Herbert College, Kotah (Raipurana).