

confer. This age-long apathy must necessarily impose a handicap on securing immediate academic distinctions on at least a majority of those who but for communalism, would have been content to carry on and enrich the traditional pursuits of their fathers. We must seek and foster intelligence and scholarship wherever they may be found, but no efforts of education can create them where they do not exist and the money and energy devoted to producing them might more profitably be utilised in training the young men to professions for which they possess specific aptitudes. Perhaps the most serious difficulty confronting any rational reform of education is that within recent years it has come too much within the range of communal suspicions, which can only disappear after government withdraws recognition now accorded to University degrees.

We shall have to wait for administrative reforms to be introduced by the new constitution before we can formulate any schemes for reconstructing the system of secondary education and any proposals for educational reform that may be put forward even when the reconstructed government has been introduced must be of a tentative character, for India is an organism still in the process of becoming. A certain measure of national stability in the wider sphere of its functions is indispensable for the sound evolution of educational reforms the necessity for which will need to be adequately understood by the new legislature. Only a thorough conviction that a sound secondary education with a wide range of selective courses must form the backbone of the national well-being can bring effective means for overhauling the educational machinery slowly, wisely and efficiently.

### The Earthquake in North India.

WE associate ourselves with the numerous agencies which have appealed for assistance to relieve the sufferings of our fellow-men in the earthquake-stricken districts of Bihar and Nepal.

The results of the scientific investigations initiated by Dr. L. L. Fermor will, we have no doubt, extend our knowledge of the geological conditions of the Sub-Himalayan regions and perhaps may even provide the people with the means of forecasting these baleful phenomena with some measure of certainty. In these regions which are obviously in the zone of weakness and strain, implied by the severe crumpling of the rock beds in the elevation of the Himalayas, within very recent times, and where the rocks have, therefore, not yet attained stability or quiescence, subcrustal dislocations must be frequent, resulting in more or less disastrous earthquakes always attended by appalling destruction of life and property. The fertility of the Indo-Gangetic alluvial plain has at all times attracted large masses of population who have built in this geologically unstable region, some of the richest cities in the East, little dreaming that their opulence and magnificence practically rest on a powder magazine within a few miles of their foundations.

The recent earthquake is far more intense than the tremors which occurred in 1833 in the same area and is nearly as ruinous as the one which overwhelmed Assam on June

12th, 1897. Earthquakes, floods, famines and cyclones have become numerous and frequent within recent years and the restoration of flourishing and populous cities which are rendered defunct by these catastrophies must be beyond the resources of a single nation. It occurs to us that the League of Nations should devise proposals for setting up an international organisation with the financial support of all countries of the world, to supplement the efforts of private philanthropy in dealing with the cataclysms over which man has no control and against which he has no means of providing protection. We do not believe that our proposal is impracticable for, in our judgment the moral significance of our civilisation must fail if it does not promote an increasing recognition of brotherhood among nations both in times of distress and prosperity, irrespective of their geographical situation and other differences. The League of Nations from its exalted position in the international life is competent to formulate and design schemes for fostering the unity of the different races now divided by narrow parochial interests and no misfortune should occur to any one of them without evoking spontaneous sympathy in the hearts of others. We can conceive of no cause or religion more sacred to humanity than provision of relief for the destitute and suffering and an earthquake is certainly that touch of Nature which ought to make the whole world kin.