

THE CONTROL OF THE MUSEUMS

As will have been ^{inferred from} ~~seen in~~ Section Three of this Report, the individual Museums are practically self-governing. Even the Peter Redpath Museum in which unified control would seem inevitable, houses four independent organizations. Movement towards centralization has, however, begun. A General Museum Committee, was appointed two years ago, under the Chairmanship of the Principal, in order to deal with matters of common interest and to make plans for effective co-ordination. As a step in this direction, Mr. E.L. Judah, who was in charge of the Museum Laboratory, has been appointed Curator of Museums. This title, however, is found on examination to be misleading. The Curator's relations to the Museums varies within the widest limits. In one (Ethnology) he is in full control as Curator, in others he is welcomed, but as a technical adviser not curator; in a third he hardly dares to set (an official) foot.

That Mr. Judah should have accomplished what he has done, placed in such an impossible situation, seems to an outside observer to be a tribute to his tact, good temper and technical (1) competence.

The position of the Museum Laboratory again, is difficult for an outside observer to understand until that of its controller, Mr. Judah, is appreciated. It does not serve, as might be expected, the whole group of the University Museums; it hardly does more than deal with the material sent to it from the Department of Pathology, and the hospital wards with which the Department is associated. It is indeed under the control of the Head of that Department, Professor Oertel.

(1) In justice to Mr. Judah, I ought to say that my estimate of the situation is the result of my own observations, no complaint regarding his office, having been made to me by him.