

£1,000,000 FOR UNIVERSITY.

APPEAL ENDORSED BY GREAT MEETING OF CITIZENS.

£201,500 ALREADY PROMISED.

LORD DERBY'S CALL TO THE COMMUNITY.

What was aptly described by Pro-Chancellor J. W. Alsop as likely to be a landmark in the history of the University of Liverpool took the form of an influential meeting of citizens, which was held, yesterday, in the Town Hall, to inaugurate an appeal for £1,000,000 to further the work of the University, which is now overcrowded with students, the numbers being nearly doubled as compared with pre-war days.

The Lord Mayor (Mr. Burton W. Eills) presided over a large attendance, and speeches were delivered urging the need for the extension of the activities of the University in various directions, both for the advantage of the nation and of the local community. A manifesto, signed by Lord Derby (Chancellor), Dr. Adami (Vice-Chancellor), and Mr. Hugh Rathbone (president of the Council), is being issued to the public pointing out that Liverpool University "can be classed high among the most prosperous and the most modern universities of Great Britain, yet it is unable to extend the work of vital importance, for which it was founded, without the means required immediately for expansion. It has become imperative to impress upon your attention the supreme importance to you, to your sons and daughters, and to the nation that these disabilities be promptly removed, in order to meet the demand of the rising generations for an education of the highest and most complete character."

It was announced by the treasurer of the University (Mr. C. Sydney Jones) that £201,500 had already been promised towards the appeal for £1,000,000 now being made.

LORD DERBY'S CALL.

Lord Derby, Chancellor of the University, who was unable to attend owing to his Ambassadorial duties in Paris, wrote:—

"Not merely energy, but keen intelligence, is needed if Britain is to maintain her old-time ascendancy in commerce and industry as well as in science and literature. Our young manhood must have the broadest and the best training of all the faculties of mind and body that is available. That the community has awakened to the need is shown by the remarkable demand for university education. The University of Liverpool has this year accepted

more than double the number of students in attendance previous to the war, and has had to refuse many from lack of accommodation. Its resources are strained to the utmost. What scarce sufficed for less than 1,200 students is wholly inadequate for more than 2,500. Leaving the future out of account, to cope with immediate requirements further classrooms, laboratories, and workshops (for students in chemistry and physics, engineering and electricity) have to be provided. The library (which is the laboratory of the arts students) needs material expansion.

"The great increase in the size of the classes in every department calls for a corresponding increase in the staff of professors, lecturers, and demonstrators. Students are pouring in from the surrounding districts. That they may live a corporate life in healthy stimulating surroundings, refectories and hostels, or halls of residence, are necessary. For the mind to be clear the body has to be in sound condition; athletic grounds and a well-equipped gymnasium are equally necessary.

"Founded and endowed by far-sighted and generous citizens, the University of Liverpool has proved its use. It is no longer in the experimental stage. To meet those pressing needs at least £1,000,000 is wanted, although the payment of donations may be spread over the next five years. I call upon all in our community who have its welfare and advancement at heart, upon all interested in the prosperity of Liverpool and of the district served by the University—West Lancashire and Cheshire, North Shropshire, and the counties of Flint and Denbigh, Westmorland and Cumberland—to respond to the fullest, according to their means, to the appeal now made on behalf of the University."

PROUD OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The Lord Mayor said they had met to make an appeal to the citizens of Liverpool in aid of their University. They had every reason to be proud of their university. It was not a great many years ago since it was founded, and during those intervening years it had expanded rapidly until it had now attained the status of one of the greatest universities in the country. They all knew what the university had done in the war: how it had helped on in many ways the happy termination of the conflict. The war had taught them the value education more than they had done in the past. With the object of endeavouring to adapt the university to the ever-growing demand for higher education, it was absolutely necessary that the public of Liverpool should find a sum of £1,000,000 in order that the centre might do the work it was expected to do.

The President of the Council (Mr. Hugh Rathbone) proposed a resolution, "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the needs of the

University are so urgent that it is necessary to make a public appeal for funds to carry forward this national work." He said he made no apology for asking the meeting to pass this resolution, and he made no apology for coming before the citizens of Liverpool once more for help to the University. It was just forty years ago that a small but very enthusiastic band of beggars appealed to Liverpool citizens to found an institution for the promotion of higher education in the city. He believed that a great deal of the money then collected—and it was a large sum—was given owing to the persistency of those beggars, and also, in certain cases perhaps (out of friendship to them). He did not think that the citizens of Liverpool forty years ago, generally speaking, thought that very much good would come to them or their city by the foundation of a University College. It was a dream which was in the minds and hearts of a few people who were very optimistic, and whose prophecy that some day this would be appreciated had come true far more than they ever expected. Twenty years afterwards, in 1900, there was another band of sturdy beggars equally enthusiastic, who again appealed to Liverpool, this time to raise a large sum of money to enable University College to develop into a full-blown University. Again there were many sceptics who said such a thing was impossible, it was too soon, and so forth, but again the dream came true, and since that time many large sums had been added to enable the University to pursue its work.

URGENT SCHEMES.

During these forty years they might rightly say they were still in an experimental stage. That had all gone past. As the Lord Mayor had rightly said, Liverpool University now stood in the forefront of modern universities of the world and they could have no possible doubt as to their future. But they must now appeal to a much larger audience. They must now find support from a much larger number of their citizens and from districts over which they had a right to appeal. The Vice-Chancellor, during the few months he had been with them, had by his enthusiasm, won a place for himself in the hearts of the citizens of Liverpool, which was remarkable. (Applause.) They knew the schemes he had in mind, and he (Mr. Rathbone) would refer only to two. The first was the urgent need for chemical laboratories. They must get £350,000 for these. Then the requirements for the social life of their students had to be met. They had a fine Students' Union, which was now far too small. They wanted hostels and also a fine athletic ground and the treasurer would be able to announce that satisfactory arrangements had been made with regard to the latter. The number of students had more than doubled since the war. No doubt the war had had a great deal to do with it, but the desire for better and more education was growing rapidly in this country before the war. The war had given it a tremendous fillip, and at last they in England were realising what was realised in Scotland centuries ago. He moved with absolute confidence the resolution before them. (Applause.)

The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Dr.