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## T H E U N I V E R S I T I E S R E V I E W

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other countries. Those who now wish to study abroad must produce a certificate of two years' post-graduate work in their special subject, and must undergo the special examination held by the Ministry of Education for such applicants. During the years 1928-1933, some 4,334 students proceeded abroad.

From the above particulars it may be deduced that China as a civilized state is making rapid progress, so that our co-operation with the International University Conference may serve to find improved ways of promoting culture and the interests of its exponents, the universities. The flower of culture should never be the exclusive property of a single race, but should be the right of all earth's peoples!

### A SHORT ADDRESS ON UNIVERSITY FREEDOM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

BY PROFESSOR R. DOUGLAS LAURIE.

The most important item in University affairs in Great Britain since the meeting of the Conference last year has been the quinquennial revision of the Government Grant to the universities; and I will take advantage of the occasion to explain to the Conference the relation which exists in Great Britain between the Government and the universities, and the position of freedom which the latter enjoy.

The universities in Great Britain are independent charter-holding institutions. They receive their funds in approximately equal proportions from three sources, namely students' fees, private benefactions and Government Grant. To obtain a place on the Government list of grant-aided university institutions an institution must not only possess requisite educational standards but also already a sufficiently substantial income. The link between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the universities is a body termed the University Grants Committee. The Committee visits the universities every fifth year and reports to the Chancellor upon their needs. The amount of annual grant is then fixed by Parliament for the next five-year period, and the sum decided upon is paid annually to the University Grants Committee, which, in turn, apportions it among the universities. A tradition greatly valued by the universities and which the Government upholds, is that the annually recurrent grant which they receive is made unconditionally. The Government has, indeed, specifically refused on more than one occasion to direct how even a portion of this grant should be spent lest this should lead to a weakening of the universities' independence and freedom. In one of the reports of the University Grants Committee the following lines occur: "A university which allowed itself to become the 'tied-house' of any special interest or calling, would lose the world as well as its own soul . . . the principle for which they (the universities) primarily stand is the disinterested pursuit of knowledge in all its branches, with freedom for the spirit of inquiry to follow whatever path its work may disclose. If, as we are often tempted to believe, 'the faintest of all human passions is the love of truth,' the welfare of those great institutions which exist to keep that passion alive is second to none among the nation's needs." And in their Report published this year the following occurs: "The universities of Great Britain rightly set store by the maintainence of that healthy spirit of independence with which they have grown up; and the recent experience of the universities of some other countries has only served to strengthen this attitude."

The Association of University Teachers is a voluntary organization, recognized by the Government and by the universities as performing a useful function in linking together the different universities, which tend to be isolated from one another, and in helping to clarify and formulate inter-university opinion on academic affairs generally.