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At a special meeting of the matriculated members of the Merchant's House, Lord Dean of Guild Blackie took the opportunity to speak of the necessity of a "Merchants' College" being established in Glasgow. He pointed out that through the agency of technical colleges and science and art classes, manufacturers seemed to have before them the means for giving their young men a proper education. But, he asked, what of the great merchant class, who did not require training in scientific subjects or in technical matters, but who, nevertheless, required a special training of their own? No doubt it had been said that they must look for a large portion of that training to the intermediate schools, but these schools were busy in endeavouring to train pupils for the university, and they did not supply the curriculum which

the merchant required. The want, he suggested, would probably be supplied if there were to be established a Merchants' College, where young men would have the opportunity of being trained in the Teutonic and Slavonic languages, as well as Italian, Arabic, Hindostanee, and Chinese. Along with that they might receive prelections in geography, a subject that was very much neglected, and be well grounded in modern history, a branch of education that was also very much overlooked. There were sundry other branches of knowledge cognate and useful for the merchant which would, no doubt, be included. Of course all this demanded money, but if a matured scheme were prepared by a responsible body, who had the ear and confidence of the public, such as the Educational Endowments Commission, probably money would be found more speedily than might be at first supposed, either by gifts or by bequest. These colleges, he added, might be affiliated to the university, in order that the young men might receive a suitable recognition of their successful application; and he suggested that those who took an interest in the University Bill about to be brought into Parliament should make sure that a clause was inserted empowering such affiliations to be made.

AN excellent beginning (says the *St. James's Gazette*) has been made with one of the very first necessities in the industrial regeneration of Ireland. A plan has been set in operation enabling the teachers of the National schools to qualify themselves for teaching agriculture and the simpler forms of handicraft to their pupils; and although but little has actually been done up to the present, the scheme is capable of yielding, under certain conditions, excellent results. The Commissioners of National Education have established at Glasnevin, near Dublin, the "Albert National Agricultural Training Institution," where the science and practice of agriculture are taught to farmers, school-teachers, and others; and where the most improved systems of dairying are taught to young women, daughters of the agricul-

tural classes. The Glasnevin farm extends over about 180 statute acres, and is arranged so as to illustrate the methods suitable for large and small holdings, or for mere gardens, or for indoor horticultural pursuits. The system by which agricultural knowledge is disseminated from the Glasnevin centre resembles that of other training colleges, except that Glasnevin is a combination of a training college and a public school. The students are divided into five classes, free resident students, paying resident students, paying non-resident students, dairy pupils, and National school teachers. The free places are open to all well-conducted young men, and are filled up by competitive examinations. The paying students are generally the sons of well-to-do farmers, or young men who intend to go into farming either at home or in the colonies. The value of such an institution to these classes is self-evident. It is through the agency of the teachers that the seed grown at Glasnevin is to be taken into every parish and hamlet in Ireland. Male National teachers, having farms or gardens attached to their schools, or who may expect to be able to get land for a small farm or garden, are selected for a course of instruction extending over six weeks. They are boarded, lodged, and taught at the public expense during that time. Moreover, their travelling expenses are paid, so that there is every inducement to lead the teachers to take advantage of the institution. It should be added that, having acquired his certificate, the teacher who instructs his scholars in agriculture is entitled to a special result-fee, the amount of which is now 4s. and 5s. per head (according to class), considerably more than is paid for any other ordinary subject. These are the inducements offered to the teachers. A further stimulus is provided by the fact that in all schools, except in large towns, agriculture is obligatory for boys of the fourth or higher classes; but the obligation is only as regards theoretical or book agriculture, whereas the Glasnevin system aims at the teaching of practical farming according to the methods most suitable to local circumstances.