



The Great Adventure—a first visit to the British Museum

Small wonder that Sir Henry Miers, in his masterly report, strongly advocated drastic changes in certain parts of our museum service. He urged, for instance, that every museum should adopt, instead of a policy of indiscriminate acquisition, a definite restricted policy based on the maximum service that it can render to its own district. Again, he urged that every local museum should have a full-time, well-qualified curator, and that much more attention should be paid to the educational side of museum work. Other recommendations went to the heart of certain technical difficulties: and others dealt with difficult problems of co-operation.

It is pleasing to know that many of his recommendations have, through the magnificent co-operation of the Museums Association, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees, and the museum authorities themselves, now been put into operation, and it is perhaps a pardonable boast to say that our

museum service is now the best in the world, except in three specific directions.

The United States still leads the way with regard to children's museums, and also in regard to 'trailside' museums established in their great national parks to serve at once as picnic and tourist centres and great educational factors in the teaching of natural history. Sweden and Germany together lead the way in folk-lore museums; every town in Germany and Sweden, in fact, has its historical collections housed in an appropriate historic building. In these three directions we have to hand the palm to foreigners.

Every country in the world now has a museum service of some kind—even Iceland and Java have excellent collections, and it has now become possible, through the researches of the Museums Association, to produce a comparative table showing the distribution of museums in all lands. It is, of course,