

Report of the Third International University Conference

THE Third International Conference was held at the University of Heidelberg, from 24th June to 27th June, 1936. The Conference immediately preceded the celebration of the 550th anniversary of the foundation of the University, and a certain number of delegates attended both functions.

The preliminary local arrangements were in the hands of Dr. Feucht, the Business Director of the University, to whom grateful thanks are due for the care and foresight shown in the preparations for the Conference meetings and not less in respect of the lodging and entertainment of the delegates.

Everyone who took part in the Conference can look back upon an extremely interesting and delightful occasion, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to the warm and hospitable welcome extended to us by all our colleagues in the University of Heidelberg and by the local authorities. Special mention should, however, be made of the Rector of the University, Dr. Groh, the host of the Conference, and of Professor Hoops and Dr. Feucht, on whom fell the greater part of the work of organization.

The meetings took place in Hörsaal 15 in the New University Buildings. A novel feature was the introduction into the Programme of several general lectures, on subjects connected with the Conference programme. This proved to be a valuable addition to the usual discussions, and we hope to see the idea carried on in future years. It is, of course, to be understood that the primary interests of the Conference are professional, in the sense that we are all concerned with the care and management of universities. The Conference cannot, therefore, be expected to develop into a scientific or literary congress, but the introduction, in a secondary place, of a certain amount of matter of scientific or literary interest is not irrelevant in a university assembly and certainly broadens the interest.

Another feature which we hope to see extended in future is the presentation of short accounts of the chief events in the university field in different countries during the period since the preceding Conference. This has already been attempted, but the notice given proved to be insufficient to enable many delegates to prepare statements in advance. In future it is hoped that more reports of this kind may be forthcoming, especially from countries outside Western Europe. Frank statements, particularly of difficulties which have been encountered, may produce most valuable discussions, either in the full Conference or in sub-committees.

One of the most important acts of the Heidelberg Conference was the adoption of a constitution for the future organization of these international conferences. After three years' experience there was a strong feeling that the experimental stage was past and that a settled form of association was needed in order that all parties concerned might know exactly how they stood with regard to each other and to the Conference.

The terms of this constitution are given below. They are intentionally broad, but there can be no doubt that they will be an indispensable help in the preparation of future Conferences. The organization of the Conference is to be founded on the