

BRADFIELD COLLEGE.

Oct 9.

NEW SCIENCE SCHOOL OPENED. 1912

Sir William Osler yesterday opened a new science school at Bradfield College, which has been built at a cost of £4,000.

The new school is a detached brick building with stone and flint dressings, and the architect, Mr. C. Steward Smith, of Reading, has harmonized the design with the general idea of the older school buildings. Its accommodation consists of four laboratories—two for chemistry, and two for physics—with a central lecture room common to all the laboratories, in which 40 boys can be seated. Though it is not intended that the laboratory classes shall exceed 16, the laboratories are large rooms, and there is ample space round the tables. Besides chemistry and physics, occasional work will be done in botany and biology. Hitherto instruction in science has been given in several separate buildings, not particularly well adapted for the purpose, and the accommodation had grown so inadequate that they ceased to fulfil the requirements of the Army Council and the General Medical Council; the new school, as Sir William Osler remarked yesterday, is first-class in every particular, and will be of great advantage to the college.

Mr. EDWARD ARMSTRONG, Warden of the school, presided at the opening, and with him on the platform were Sir Arthur Rücker, Sir William Osler, Mr. J. H. Benyon, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr. G. W. Palmer, Mr. R. B. Dyke Acland, and the Rev. H. Costley White, headmaster.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER, after opening the building, addressed the boys and a large company of parents in Big School. Having congratulated the college on the new addition, he said there were very few chemical laboratories so well arranged and so admirably adapted to their purpose. How far could a school like that specialize in science? He was one of those who held that for the learned professions Latin and Greek were necessary, and he saw no reason why in the present conditions boys should not have obtained enough Latin and Greek by the time they were 15 or 16, and then work mainly at science for two full years, in which time they should receive a thorough grounding in chemistry and biology, and thus be able to begin practical work in the medical school at once. Unfortunately many medical students coming from the public schools were not in this position. He recommended the boys to study Greek, because, after all, the Greek outlook on life was the outlook of youth; the Greeks were optimists and looked on life with good clear vision. The editors of too many of our daily papers were rank pessimists of the worst description, and it was disgraceful to have literature of that kind distributed among our youth. There was no cause for pessimism. There never was a period in our history when young men and boys should be so optimistic; when the poor were better off, when there were fewer poor, when the rich were doing more for the poor, and when the outlook, if they would look with Grecian eyes, was better for the country and for the Empire.