

**ASPECTS OF MODERN
STUDY: BEING
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION ADDRESSES**

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Aspects of Modern Study: Being University Extension Addresses by Lord Playfair & R. D. Roberts

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LORD PLAYFAIR & R. D. ROBERTS

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION ADDRESSES

BY LORD PLAYFAIR, CANON BROWNE, MR. GOSCHEN,
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THE BISHOP OF DURHAM, AND
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PREFACE

THE Addresses included in this volume were delivered to the students of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching at the Annual Meetings held in the Mansion House from year to year by the courtesy of the Lord Mayor. These gatherings were first instituted in 1886, the tenth year of the Society's existence. By means of them the Council of the London Society sought to attain two chief ends. On the one hand they hoped through the medium of Addresses by men of distinction to hold before the students a high ideal of educational purpose, and on the other to promote and foster a sense of corporate educational life among the workers from the various Extension Centres in different parts of London. The importance of these objects will be readily acknowledged. Men and women desirous of carrying on studies in which they are interested, but unable to give their whole time to education, find at the University Extension Lectures stimulus, guidance, and oppor-

tunities for intellectual training which the conditions of adult life render it impossible for them to seek at a College. The Annual Meetings have brought these scattered workers together, and have helped them to realise that they are taking part in a great movement. That the opportunity of hearing the Addresses was highly valued could not be doubted by any one who witnessed the crowded state of the hall on each occasion, and the Council hope by the publication of this volume to extend the inspiring and helpful influence of the Addresses to a larger audience and over a wider area.

The growth and development of the University Extension movement, since it was inaugurated by the University of Cambridge twenty-one years ago, has been remarkable, and its history is peculiarly interesting and instructive. The purpose of the originators was to promote the development of student life side by side with business life—to create a new type of students, carrying on into mature years their higher education concurrently with the occupations of everyday life. The members of the London Society are able to recall with satisfaction that the foundation of that Society in 1876 was the first step taken outside Cambridge to follow the lead of that University in this new sphere of educational activity. Two years

later similar work was undertaken by the University of Oxford, and since then other Universities in the United Kingdom, notably Victoria, have followed in the same path. England is now covered with a network of Centres, and something has been done in the same direction in other parts of the kingdom. The movement has been introduced into English-speaking countries all over the world, and has aroused great interest on the Continent of Europe, where schemes are being started on similar lines. This rapid progress proves that the system is well adapted to meet certain pressing educational needs of the time. At the present moment educational interest in London gathers largely around the proposed Teaching University. Had London possessed a Teaching University in 1876 the formation of the London Society would, in all probability, have been unnecessary, as the work would doubtless have been undertaken by the University itself. As it was the University of London did all that was possible under its constitution by consenting, in conjunction with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, to appoint a Universities' Joint Board to co-operate with the Council of the Society in carrying on the work. The Council look to the eventual establishment of a University which will have power to take up and carry on into higher stages of efficiency

and perfection this work, the necessity for which their operations during eighteen years have abundantly proved. They feel that the results of the educational experiments of the last two decades in the extension of University Teaching amply justify a belief in the possibility of an active trained intellectual life for all who are willing to pursue it, without question of age, social position; or condition of life, and they regard the development of adequate educational opportunities for evening students as a matter of prime national importance.

The Addresses, with the exception of those by Lord Playfair and Canon Browne, are arranged in chronological order. These two, unlike the others, deal with the University Extension movement itself rather than with special aspects of study, and it has, therefore, seemed natural to place them together at the beginning of the volume.

R. D. ROBERTS,

*Secretary of the London Society for the
Extension of University Teaching.*

CHARTERHOUSE, LONDON, E.C.

4th June 1894.