

**ENGLAND'S
NEGLECT
OF SCIENCE**

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England's Neglect of Science by John Perry

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JOHN PERRY

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BY

PROFESSOR JOHN PERRY, M.E., D.Sc., F.R.S.

PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

London

T. FISHER UNWIN

Paternoster Square

1900

PREFACE

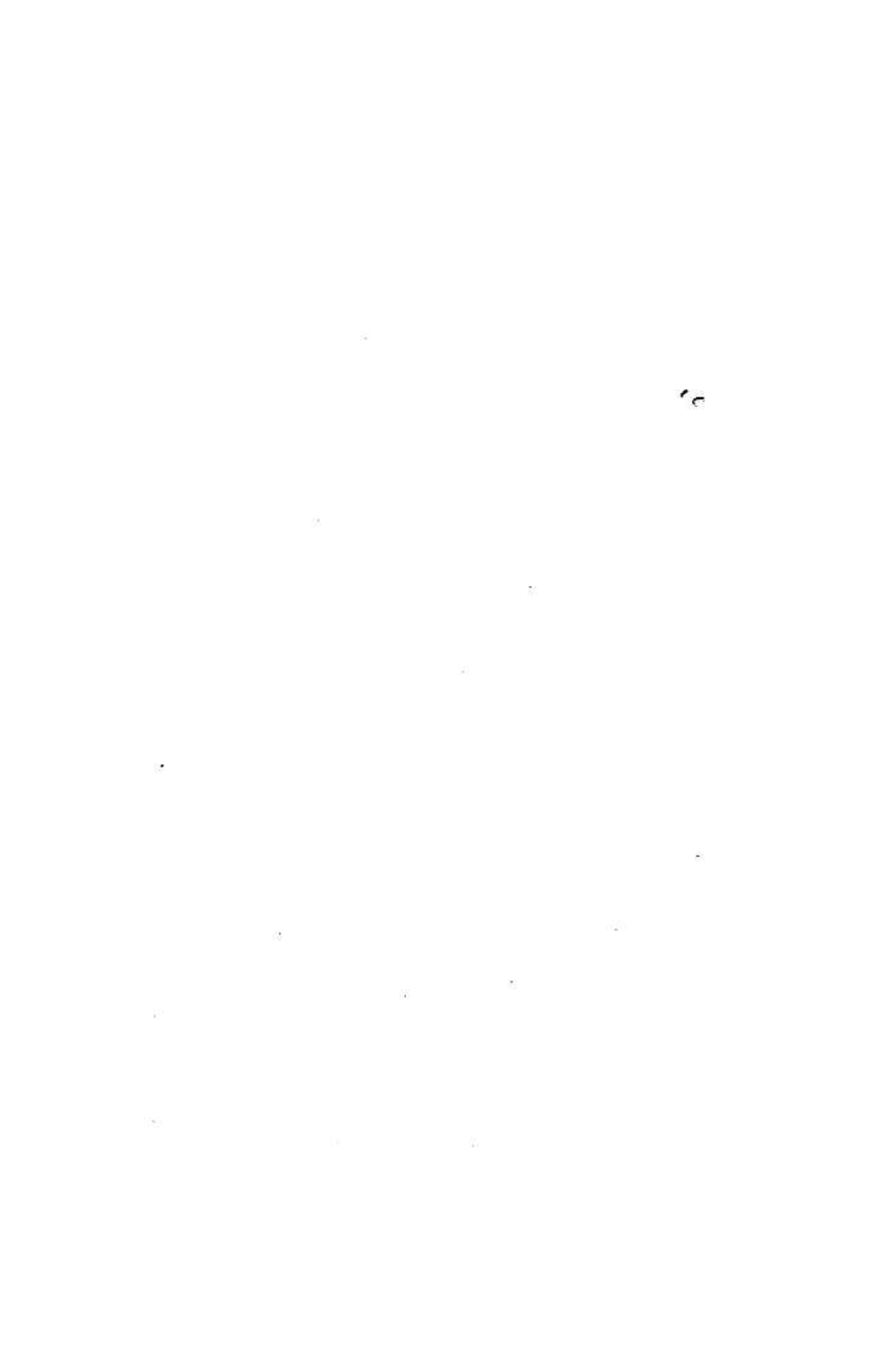
AS from the leading article in *The Times* of November 9th, and from the articles and letters now appearing in the daily and weekly papers in which my address as President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers is being criticised, it appears that I am regarded as now putting forward views that are quite new, I think it well to publish some statements which I have made in the past. It will be seen that these amplify certain parts of the address which have not been perfectly well understood. It will be seen that there has been no essential change in my notions as to what kind of reform is needed in what is called our System of Education. I have recently come to know that these notions are in perfect agreement with what Mr. Herbert Spencer and many other educationalists have published. They are certainly the notions of my old colleagues, Professors Ayrton and Armstrong. I cannot lay my hands on certain statements which I published in Japan between the years 1875 and 1879, but these as well as many other of my utterances since are in perfect agreement with my notions now. I claim that these notions are natural to any man of experience who can think for himself and who is not materially interested in the maintenance of existing methods of education.

JOHN PERRY.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LONDON, S.W.
November 17, 1900.

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE INSTITUTION
OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, NOVEMBER 8, 1900

I DO not intend to make this in any sense a report of the progress of our Institution during the last or any number of years. I shall not, therefore, give any account of the exceedingly good work done by Colonel Crompton and the active service corps of our Electrical Engineer Volunteers in South Africa. I shall not describe how we *fêted* our American cousins in England and France, nor how they *fêted* us ; nor what a wonderful success accompanied all that was attempted by us or by them or by M. Mascart and our French colleagues, although I cannot refrain from bearing my testimony to the great kindness of the Prince of Wales and the British Commission in so generously lending us the British Pavilion for our great reception and giving us the use of one of its rooms for our office all the time of our visit to Paris.

My brother has tried to get me to introduce to your notice some novel ideas which have come to us during the last ten years in our business of lighting the City of Galway from a fairly constant water-power using accumulators with a Dowson gas plant stand-by. It has almost come to be a practical idea to produce Carbide of Calcium in wet seasons and utilise it through the gas engine in dry seasons. I was also tempted to discuss the use of large gas engine plant at central stations ; and another of several subjects in which I have been recently engaged has been the magnetic effect produced by systems of electric traction. But I have resisted temptation and have chosen a subject which seems to me much more important.