participate with the men in whatever is done, as well as have certain classes for themselves. It is hardly necessary to do more than mention this, of course, though it is as well that Oxford should recognize that in the class demanding higher education the women stand on the same footing, and shall enjoy the same advantages, and earn for the same work the same recognition as the men. Perhaps no educational document of recent years suggests such large possibilities for the future. If what it represents is actual, and what it advises is practical (and it is all but certain that such is the case), we have a new social and educational power. In a sense both labour and university are on their trial. The one has to prove the sincerity and the permanence of her demand: the other must prove her sense of responsibility and justice, her consciousness of high endeavour, and what is perhaps hardest yet most just to say, her teachableness. There can be no question as to the need, among the students of a cloistered economics and a cloistered philosophy, for living knowledge of economic conditions and of the majority's modes of thought. Exact knowledge can be got from books and tables of statistics. Living knowledge can only come from sympathy and friendship. At the same time the hand-worker needs to learn to rise at times above particulars into the world of ideas, to take larger views, and to envisage present-day minutiae in the long-drawn pageant of history. If these two, the scholar and the workman, can be introduced to one another, and cement a fellowship, we can hope for much.

F. W. KOLTHAMMER.

NOTE ON TOWN PLANNING.*

ABSTRACT.

I.

Mr. Burns' Town Planning Bill contains far more than a contribution to the housing problem, more than provision for the better planning of suburban extensions. Its serious consideration raises the largest questions of modern life. It compels everyone who is in any way responsible for the future of his town—and who is not?—to enquire into his town—past, present, and possible. What has been its particular origin and its development through past vicissitudes and recent phases of growth up to the present? What of this in all its aspects—beginning with its geographical situation and region, the advantages and disadvantages of this, its position and relief, its communications by land and water, its natural resources and the mode of utilisation of them, by industry and commerce? Of its population, too, we have to know far more than the mere numbers—all that existing census, directory and registrar, town clerk, health officer, and other colleagues can supply, and more.

* Abstract of a paper "On Town Planning and City Design—in Sociology and in Citizenship," read to the Sociological Society, October 27th, 1908.

A Town Plan, too, is a forecast—one of the most vast and comprehensive forecasts imaginable. How then shall anyone consent to, much less draft or criticise, such great general schemes of his town's future as a whole without investigation into the growth of its parts and elements in detail? Thus his enquiries must go on, ever enlarging; correspondingly demanding fresh knowledge of details of all kinds. Thus he must ask the geologist what of subsoil? the meteorologist what of climate? prevailing winds? and so on; and such questions of natural science are but simple compared to the enquiries he must put before the social economist.

The making of a Town Plan is thus no simple matter of rule and square, capable of being sketched out offhand for the Streets or Buildings Committee of each Town Council, and then settled for execution—as the Draft Bill as yet too lightly permits—as soon as it can get through an inspection at Whitehall. It is no mere matter of civil engineering even at its ablest, nor as some think, of architecture—homely and stately—of park-making, avenued and free. It is not something which can be simply constructed by a municipal official, and inspected by a government one. It must be the expression of all the elements, all the processes, all the aspects of a unique social individuality, and must either express a social progress towards the types of City life which are the supreme blossoms of civilisation in history, or else embody, as our present towns so largely do, tendencies which are the very opposite of all these, and so reproduce the past's decay.

Model buildings may be piled up at the centres, and new suburbs may be patched on at the circumference, and often both with advantage: yet Town Planning is more than any such immediately necessary Town Patching: it begins with Civic Survey, and it works towards City Design. But Civic Survey is the very stuff of the Social Sciences, which are all lagging until this advances anew, while City Design involves the growing co-ordination of all the arts—arts of utility and of beauty alike, of health and of education, of material and moral progress. It is statesmanship in the concrete: the day of abstraction and oratory is ending, and the lucid grasp of the one, the power and passion of the other, have now to be applied to a task more than Augean, more than Promethean—that of Amphion, that of the City-builders of old.

II.

Every new Bill raises with it its own crop of sociological questions, each new Act opens up specific opportunities and dangers; but this Planning Bill is exceptional, in our generation at least, as peculiarly arousing all the questions of social life and of civic action at once; of raising in short the whole issues of Civilisation, and these in a form which tends peculiarly to determine that of the opening future. The opportunity is thus one for sociology to use to the full, and this not merely towards the extension of its own field, but even in the interests of the preliminary sciences also. Hardly anyone nowadays knows or realises the

contempt and opposition, both in Parliament and out of it, and above all by the self-styled "practical man," to the national adoption of the Geological Survey begun a century ago and more by a few individual geologists, mostly members of the Geological Society. But this soon justified itself, through a gain alike to science and to practice, beyond its promises, beyond all statistical reckoning. It is now the turn of the as yet isolated workers in social and civic survey, and of the Sociological and kindred societies to take up the analogous place upon the fighting line, and to press upon our communities, alike urban and rural, and their representatives in Municipalities, County Councils and Parliament, the need and urgency of organising and unifying the Sociological Survey of Great Britain, in town and country alike.

This interaction and interdependence of town and country has lately been pointed out by Sir Horace Plunkett in his Presidential Address to the Agricultural Section of the British Association at Dublin; and the urgency of such a twofold enquiry, thus recognised by one of the most practical of living statesmen, must soon become more widely known.

It is therefore time for both sociologist and citizen to be preparing to utilise their opportunities. First the actual opportunity afforded by the Town Planning Bill. In this respect the Cities Committee of the Sociological Society are preparing a detailed summary giving particulars of the methods of City Survey, and are submitting this, condensed into a Schedule of Enquiries necessary to the preparation of a Town Planning Scheme, to those responsible for the present Bill in Parliament, and to municipal bodies.

III.

Furthermore this Cities Committee has been able to arrange in the first place through Museum Curators, Librarians, etc., and now also through other correspondents, sometimes Mayors or Councillors, for the holding of temporary Exhibitions of such materials as are already in existence or can speedily be brought together, *e.g.*, maps, plans, relief-models, engravings, and photographs, and original designs and objects illustrative of the past, present and possible development of various cities. At Leicester and elsewhere preparations for such an exhibition are well advanced, and experience already shows that the committee necessary for this work also becomes a recruiting agency alike for sociological enquiries and for active citizenship.

The city counsellor thus increasingly appears beside the councillor; and while these are happily united often in the same person, it is evident that in the work of such civic committees there opens a new field of training and activity from which Councils may be recruited, and to which retiring mayors and members may also usefully return with detailed experience and with broadened views.

The exhibitions thus being arranged also obviously afford germs for a Civic Museum where this does not exist, or enrichment for collections already begun. The fuller utilisation and development of museums as homes not only of past learning and art, but of these in fuller interaction with the city's life, is thus no unrealisable Utopia.

IV.

Yet we need more than local exhibitions, city by city. Our island cities, like American ones, have for the most part grown up in age-long isolation from the great and beautiful cities of the Continent, for the widened culture which our innumerable tourists have brought back from these has rarely been applied towards their stimulus and improvement. Yet the opposite difficulty has long been arising here, and is now obvious in America, that of a too crude and hasty adoption of city plans, inspired, not by local life, by love or knowledge, but by imitation of the costly and meretricious pomposities of great continental capitals. Haussmann's Paris, the École des Beaux Arts, modern Berlin and Vienna have in this respect a widening influence upon their annually increasing multitude of visitors from America and Britain; and already the visitor to almost any important city of these islands must see this influence. For this increasingly threatens us with dreary perspectives and conventional ornament, relieved only by occasional extravagances, and is thus, as with the least artistic sense and training any one can see for himself, even uglier than the as yet prevalent industrial squalor and garishness of our poorer quarters or even than the featureless monotony of our respectable ones. In a word, an immediate danger in America, and in Britain also, is to repeat the mistakes of the French city improvers of the Second Empire, and the corresponding developments of Berlin, Strasburg, etc.

For this new danger also there is one remedy, and only one—that of instituting the Civic Survey. For its immediate result is to bring out into clear and public view the individuality of its town—manifest from its position and from its past (and this even in so-called new cities) and still latent, however incrustated by neglect or overlaid by importation. That each townlet, still more each city, has its own personality is no doubt too much forgotten, both there and at its dominant capital. Yet that this uniqueness of character is not less but more defined than in the individual is manifest, and he who in any city forgets or never discovers how deeply his city has stamped itself upon his whole mental experience and outlook is thereby the more plainly its very cockney; and there are such cockneys in every city.

The problem for solution, which each city has increasingly to face, is thus to conserve and to express its Local Individuality, its uniqueness and character, yet to reconcile this with a full and increasing participation in the material appliances, and the immaterial advantages of other cities, in short at once to live its own life and this more and more intensely; yet to be also in the great world, and this more and more fully also.

The essential problem is thus to discern the distinctive character and spirit of our city, small or great—Chelsea or Westminster, Dunfermline or Edinburgh, Galway or Dublin; and to collaborate and plan and work towards a City Design which shall increasingly express and develop all that is best in this; and here, as in individual life, we may best correct faults by developing qualities. Town Plans which omit this individual point of view—and where as yet has this been sufficiently considered?—are not even adequate

as Town Patches, and may soon be Town Calamities, arresting development by stifling local character.

This difficulty can also be met by correspondingly farther extension of Civic Survey and Civic Service, but now not only individual and regional, but also comparative, comprehensive. Thus a great American seaport would not copy the modern defects of Berlin if it knew the best, say, of Hamburg and Lubeck, old and new; nor would Edinburgh and many another of our cities have sacrificed so many of its main historic assets so lightly had it been in adequate touch with Nuremberg or Rothenburg, with which it might well have rivalled.

V.

The local Civic Exhibition has thus a second use, that of preparing a smaller exhibit of its essentials and of lending that to an Inter-Civic Exhibition—national, and still better international—such as the *Congrès et Exposition de l'Art Public* in Paris in 1900, or such as has since been held more than once in Germany, as also at St. Louis in 1904, and in each case with success and result, should now be held in London; or failing that, say in Edinburgh or in Manchester. Finally, each local exhibition has a third task, that of selecting from the large inter-civic collections such material as may be of service to itself, as for example or for warning.

The creation of such a "Towneries" is thoroughly adapted to London, and would be for its interest in every sense, while its impulse to citizenship, here and throughout the land, the empire, the world, could not but be great. Such an exhibition, with its presentment of Cities Beautiful, ancient and modern, past, present, and future, might well be the most attractive, and the most directly and widely useful of International Exhibitions.

Town Planning would thus increasingly be stimulated as City Design; while Sociology would be advanced into a concrete and comparative science of the actually most important and characteristic Societies—Cities—which it has too long practically overlooked. Furthermore, all would bear fruit in a revival of citizenship, which needs "no mean city" for its due expression.

P. GEDDES.