

THE DUBLIN SCHOOL OF CIVICS.

The past summer, stormy and momentous for all Europe, has been so in a peculiar degree for Ireland, and particularly for Dublin. Although, before the War, nation and city were at a crisis of their history—indeed, largely because of this—Dublin organised its first Civic Exhibition, and within the exhibition the first Summer School of Civics.

The School opened on July 27, the day after the tragedy of the shooting in Dublin streets; war was declared with Germany at the beginning of its second week; and in the third week students were attending three or four of its meetings a day and drilling with National Volunteers and ambulance corps in the intervals. Nevertheless the School not only completed its advertised three-weeks course, but continued through a fourth week.

The School of Civics was under the direction of Professor Patrick Geddes, and was organised by co-operation between Dublin and the Outlook Tower, Edinburgh. Financial grants were made to it by the Civic Exhibition and the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (which also sent many students, paying their fees), while the Irish National School Board sent students during the fourth week. Many notable lecturers, of Dublin and elsewhere, gave their services freely in order to make the syllabus as complete as possible.

The first week's course, arranged by the Edinburgh Committee, was concerned with the approach to Civics in education by means of Regional Survey. The lectures of Professor Geddes and Dr. Fleure (of Aberystwith) were combined with discussions on subjects of the present school curriculum, opened mainly by English and Scottish teachers. These were supplemented by an excursion for the synthetic study of the Liffey Basin, from a point on the Dublin Mountains. The landscape was described and interpreted: geographically and geologically by Mr. C. B. Fawcett (Southampton); botanically by Professor Houston (Dublin); anthropologically by Dr. Fleure, Professor Geddes, as sociologist, summing up. During the first week also Professor Grenville Cole lectured on the geology of the region; and Miss Hardy gave an example of an advanced survey, geographic and civic, in a lecture on Salisbury. Mr. Valentine Bell followed up a description of the Lambeth survey by organising the work on Dublin, making a comprehensive beginning of a survey on lines suitable for use in elementary schools.

During the second week the regional study was extended, Professor Geddes lecturing daily upon Occupations and their ethics, from primitive times to the industrial age. The third week was devoted to the ideals and responsibilities of citizenship, the studies receiving both stimulus and definite direction from the course of recent events and the official revelation of conditions in the city. Public health, housing, and questions of food supply were dealt with by Dublin experts, and lectures on Co-operation were given by members of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. Professor Geddes's lectures on Regional and City Survey were continued during the fourth week. During the whole period frequent conferences were held, some of them jointly with the Conference for City Promotion organised by Dr. Ratzel and other American visitors. At the conference of August 14, with Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen in the chair, the School of Civics formed itself into a committee for the School of Civics 1915. This committee proceeded to take steps for the carrying on of regional surveys and the practice and teaching of Civics in centres all over Ireland. Lady Aberdeen is president, Professor Geddes chairman, and Mr. W. Scott honorary secretary.