

administrative qualities. The meaningless duplication of the university examinations can then be dispensed with, resulting in financial saving.

The problems of reforming the public examinations conducted by the universities and by other educational bodies must in their nature be numerous and complicated and would be a fitting subject for detailed investigation by a Commission to be

appointed by the India Government. It is true that education is a provincial subject but its importance is an all-India question. The urgent need of assigning examinations to their proper place in the household of education where they are now playing the part of a parvenu mistress is to be recognized. We hope to be able to indicate in a future issue of our Journal the broad outlines on which the reform is to proceed.

Announcement.

Sir C. V. Raman, Kt., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., N.L.

WE have pleasure in offering our felicitations to Sir C. V. Raman on the occasion of his assuming charge of the Directorship of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. We hope that in augmenting the high traditions of the exalted office he is called

upon to occupy, his administration of this important scientific Institution in India will witness a rapid and uninterrupted growth of fresh scientific research conducive to the general progress and industrial prosperity of the country.

The Everest Expedition.

THE successful test flight over Mount Everest by the Houston expedition will always rank as one of the magnificent achievements in the history of aviation. As a public demonstration of the British spirit of enterprise and as a deed of daring, it surpasses in interest and in romance the great enterprises of Peary and Scott. But nevertheless these undertakings cannot be compared with the maritime discoveries of the Italian sailors and the English seamen of the sixteenth century, which opened up the economic resources of vast continents for exploitation by the civilized European nations, converted the impassable oceans into commercial highways and paved the way for the spread of knowledge and civilization, besides adding to our knowledge of the human races, the fauna and flora and the geological conditions of the hitherto unknown tracts of the world.

The previous expeditions on land have not succeeded in attaining the summit of Mount Everest and the flight therefore over this highest peak is attended by more than usual interest. The Westland 'planes used by the party are provided with every equipment which modern science can devise and human resources can supply. The problems of flying in the higher altitudes are severely exacting and unexpected developments in the weather conditions may frustrate the

hopes raised by the completeness of equipment, the foresight, efficiency and experience of the party. The fierce hurricanes and the poor visibility in the higher altitudes are factors which no pre-vision or calculation can provide for on account of our imperfect knowledge of the meteorological conditions and the range of their variation in upper atmosphere. The problem of warming food and the kind and quantity of nutrition required for keeping the party fit for carrying on the scientific observations have been carefully thought out and amply provided for. If the air party can establish communications and collaborate with the expedition on foot under the leadership of Mr. Rutledge the scientific results of this undertaking will be of inestimable value. It is too premature to estimate their importance or to envisage the directions in which they may be of practical value. But the knowledge gained by the behaviour of the 'planes in upper air will be of immediate assistance in perfecting the civil aviation for the promotion of peace and goodwill among the nations of the world. It is chiefly in this direction that we look forward to suggestions being made by the Houston party with a view to facilitate easy, cheap and safe communication between nations of the different countries for the consolidation of the higher destinies of humanity.