

City of



Birmingham

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

AN ADDRESS

Delivered to the Students on the occasion of the Prize

Distribution on the 21st November, 1907,

BY

Sir OLIVER LODGE, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.

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ADDRESS.

My Lord Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—

This is a domestic and friendly gathering, and I shall proceed to carry out the commands of the Lord Mayor at once, in the order in which he has given them to me. I would only like to say first, in respect to what has fallen from Dr. Sumpner, that it is amazing the magnitude of an institution like this which has grown up within quite recent years, so that we can speak of 4,000 students attending it, and 2,000 students attending the examinations at the end of the session. We have no numbers like that in a neighbouring institution in this city, the University, with which I am connected. As there are 2,000 attending the examinations, I was at first surprised to see how few prizes were obtained, but Dr. Sumpner has explained that it is only in some classes that prizes are offered. I know there are a great number of certificates which will not be given to-night, and that it is only the prizes which we shall ask those who have to receive them to come up for. Therefore we shall see the cream of the students from those classes in which prizes can be obtained; we shall not see the cream of the students in the other classes. I am not surprised to hear that the Brassfounders have shown an enlightened interest in this institution, because the Brassfounders of Birmingham have made themselves known all over the country as enlightened men, whether they are visiting Germany and studying the condition of the workers there, or publishing books on the "Brassworkers of Berlin and Birmingham."

Sir Oliver Lodge here distributed the prizes.

After the distribution Sir Oliver continued:—

Now, my Lord Mayor, I will proceed to do the other thing you told me to do. When my colleague, the Vice-Principal of the University, Dr. Heath, whose absence to-night I regret, asked me to come and take part in this ceremony, I consented without hesitation, though I do wish it to be understood that it is an exceptional thing. I am asked to distribute prizes at almost every institution in the surrounding seven or eight counties, not to mention Yorkshire and London and other places; and I invariably decline. But you see there are exceptional cases, and when Dr. Heath asked me to come, I could not say "no"; especially as this is an institution, a neighbouring institution, in the same city, by which so much good work is being done,