

EDUCATION MINISTER OPENS NEW TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Presentation Cloth Made By Students

IMPORTANCE OF STROUD IN COUNTY

WHEN the Minister of Education, the Right Hon. Florence Horsbrugh, declared the new Stroud and District Technical College in Stratford Road, officially open yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, she was presented with a roll of cloth designed and made by students of the whole college.



THE RT. HON FLORENCE
HORSBRUGH, C.B.E., M.P.

The presentation was made by Mr. John Giles, who said that as cloth making was a traditional industry in the area, they felt that a product of the textile department would be representative of the whole college.

In accepting the gift, the Minister promised to have it made up in plenty of time for the opening of the next instalment of the college.

The opening ceremony was carried out in the college refectory before a large and distinguished company over which the chairman of the County Education Committee (Mr. R. R. Dobson) presided.

The prayer of dedication was said by the Bishop of Gloucester (Dr. W. M. Askwith) and in introducing the minister Mr. Dobson spoke of the fundamental part played in the life of the child by the home and the primary school.

He defended the amount of money spent on State education and declared, "I feel that the young people who are going to determine the future of this country—and the fortunes of this country—should have the best education that it is possible to give them."

Accepting on behalf of the governors the responsibility for the administration of the college the chairman of the Governors (Mr. T. Langham, J.P.) said that the need for a college in the area had been recognised because of the extension of almost every kind of industry and because of the increase in population.

He added that he would suggest Stroud had now to be looked upon as one of the most important towns in the county.

Miss Horsbrugh began by saying that much modern industrial development was taking place in areas formerly regarded as rural. It was quite natural that such areas should make an effort to provide further education.

AIRCRAFT AND TEXTILES

Gloucestershire was such an area, the minister went on, the change being probably due to a certain extent to the increasing aircraft industry and its components.

She also knew so well of the work that had been done by the textile industry so long connected with this part of the country and she had seen some of the textile machines in the college.

"I would like to congratulate you here for the way you have been trying to carry out the scheme for further education you so rightly conceive to be necessary and right for Gloucestershire, and I have been very interested to receive a copy of the new book describing what has been done in years gone by, how the work has grown up, what is being done at the present time, and what you hope to do in the future."

She felt that Gloucestershire had been very wise in planning their two new big technical colleges at Stroud and Cheltenham.

There was considerable laughter when Miss Horsbrugh, having mentioned that she understood that the new college cost £150,000, said she was sure her eyes would be fully occupied with the wonderful view from the windows of the commercial classrooms were she a student.

Happily she understood that everyone was very studious at Stroud.

SPEED OF BUILDING

While congratulating the county for what had been done in the matter of providing new educational buildings, Miss Horsbrugh said, "If possible I should like to see them provided with even greater speed, because they are required."

The minister went on to speak of the growing importance of the part-time day-release scheme for students—it was one of the good things developed in the past few years.

Last year part-time day-release students numbered 300,000, an increase of 19,000 on the previous year.

"I do commend to industry the scheme for day-release education, because it is proving extremely important," said Miss Horsbrugh.

VALUABLE CO-OPERATION

Miss Horsbrugh also spoke in praise of the co-operation which existed locally between the authority, the college and industry.

"I not only hear that local industrialists are releasing their young people to make use of the facilities provided by the college," she said, "but that they have also given equipment such as we are very proud of, and for which I know the college is very grateful."

She had been informed that day release for education in textiles had been going on in the Stroud valleys for 60 years. It reminded them that education was not merely something of their own time—it was a process that each generation must carry on.

"If one thing is certain it is that this country of ours must rely on the quality of its goods and must rely on the skill of its people" the minister declared.

Having remarked on the magnificent equipment of the college Miss Horsbrugh in declaring the new building open, said, "I would like to feel that those coming to this college—whether as students or teachers, will realise that they are doing something not only for themselves, but also something for Gloucestershire and this part of the country. I want them also to feel that they are taking part in something that is desperately important for the whole of our country at this time."

The Duke of Beaufort the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire spoke of his pleasure at seeing the provision made in the new college for instruction in agricultural subjects.

A vote of thanks to Miss Horsbrugh was proposed by the chairman of the County Council (Lt.-Col. J. Godman) and seconded by the chairman of the Further Education Sub Committee (Maj. P. D. Birchall).

Miss Horsbrugh arrived at the college soon after mid day and was shown over the building accompanied by the chairman of the Governors, the principal (Mr. S. R. Stubbs) and other officials.