

#### Government Aid to Science

WILL you allow me, with the utmost respect, to remind your able correspondent, that *every individual* in the state pays taxes for ignorance and inefficiency; while so interwoven are the interests of man with man—so often does inquiry after the most abstract principles lead to valuable practical results, that it is impossible to predict in which department of Science discoveries may be made that shall materially lighten these unsatisfactory imposts. Hence the field of research should be open to all and

every facility afforded. If this be not the duty of the State it is difficult to explain its *raison d'être*.

The question from the economical point of view is—Shall we pay heavy rates for prisons and workhouses, or shall we try to lighten them by the spread of education? It is well to remember that the law of supply and demand will not avail here, for they who most want it are the least likely to ask for instruction. Perhaps, Mr. Wallace's chief objection is to the unsatisfactory way the money raised by rating, is expended. And here is room for large reforms, if not retrenchment. His proposal regarding the British Museum seems admirable. It is painful to see what excellent opportunities for teaching those who really require it, are lost in that magnificent collection, for want of a little, a *very little*, more expense and trouble.

These remarks are made from the very lowest stand-point, the principle of self-interest—a principle, I believe, your correspondent would heartily despise; for the man of science is essentially liberal, essentially averse to huckstering calculations of profit and loss, essentially unqualified for scrambling after loaves and fishes.

E. G. A.