

is essential that all those sectors of British business who realise the importance of scientific management should be continuously aware of their need for up-to-date information upon which to base their decisions.

For this reason also one hopes that the new British business schools, who it is reported, are going to be decision orientated will include the principles of information and library science within their curriculum. A positive lead of this kind is required from the business community if they are not to find themselves, in a few years time, as far behind the rest of the nation as Britain is now behind the United States of America.

Manpower Planning

THE SPRING CONFERENCE of the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education held on the 27th April, was again opened by the Minister of Labour. This was particularly apt this year as the subject for discussion was manpower planning. Mr. Gunter's address reflected the importance that is being placed by his Ministry on the efficient use and deployment of human resources in industry. The necessity of planning for future requirements is well appreciated by most employers at the present time, with full employment a reality rather than an economic concept. But manpower planners are concerned not only with the quantity of labour, but also with its quality. The traditional shortage of skilled workers in the British economy is a problem well known to the Minister, and one that he is trying to solve with the help of the Training Boards.

Successful planning for the future depends ultimately on the provision of reliable and relevant statistics of the present situation. Only then is it worthwhile to attempt to forecast future likely trends. It was the provision of statistics that formed the basis of Mr. Gunter's speech. The Minister of Labour's Man-

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