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and associated committees

The alterations that have taken place in further education over the last few years is quite staggering.

In engineering the normal form of training was a "time served" apprenticeship and yet over the space of five years the colleges have had to cope with a new form of training, Y.T.S., as well as the ever changing requirements of firms sending apprentices to college.

An apprentice served four years in his company under the supervision of skilled men and attended the college for a city and guilds certificate in either Technical engineering or in Craft Engineering and this would last him for life and he was well able to apply for promotion or stay at his tools.

An apprentice or skilled man now will have to retrain during his time in industry. The form of technical qualifications have also changed to Technical Educational Council Certificates instead of the city & guilds technicians but the craft remains the same.

To qualify for technical training you now have to have set 'O' levels as opposed to a good standard of Education.

In all this change our staff at the colleges have had to cope and give as good a service. It is to their credit that they have coped with the change and can even provide specialist training in technological fields to an employer provided that he can supply enough students to make the course viable.

There has been a steady increase in Flexi Study Education courses and I think that this trend will continue. The reason for this is that not everyone is able to attend the College during the day or at the set times given and this course covers their needs.

Because the C.F.E. now runs these courses subjects such as 'A' Level Physics are now available. These subjects need laboratory work and by arrangement with the courses tutor, a time convenient to both the student and the tutor can be arranged in order that the person can complete the requirements for the qualification.

The only set back with this course is that the Tutor is not there to teach you. A set programme of course notes and tests is sent out when you enrol and the work is sent to the tutor for marking. He will advise you but if you find considerable difficulties with the course then you may have no choice but to enter the full or part time course.

With the increase in spare time caused for whatever reason the emphasis of Cradle to Grave Education has increased. All sorts of courses are being provided by both the Further Education colleges and by schools, community centres and private individuals teaching in church halls, etc.

Everything goes from Keep Fit to pottery, Car Maintenance, Do it Yourself Canoe building is or has been taught at some time in the city of Plymouth and I am certain that this goes on throughout the country where interest is shown. It is a fact that people will have more time on their hands and so the popularity of these courses will continue to grow and it is the policy of the County Council's Community Education Committee to encourage this.

In order to allow community groups to set up they must have available a building from which to work. We encourage all our schools to allow the dual use of some or all of the buildings and sports facilities. A small charge is made depending on the use that the building is to be put to so that groups can afford to hire the rooms required and the school can also profit.

This can again only be done with the cooperation of Headmasters and caretaking staff but in the main, most of our schools cooperate in some form and all new schools before they are built are looked at to see if community use is required for after school activities and they are designed with this requirement in mind. The largest of these form Community Colleges and we have several in the County.

With more technological advances being made and industry requiring more highly trained personnel and an increase in leisure time, the demands upon Further and Community Education in all its forms will certainly increase.