

THE following are among recent appointments:—Dr. Otto Fischer to be Extraordinary Professor of Physiological Physics at Leipzig; Dr. Albert P. Brubaker to be Assistant Professor of Hygiene in Jefferson College, Philadelphia; Dr. E. B. Sangree to be Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology in the Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

THE new buildings at Owen's School for boys, Islington, which were recently opened by the Master of the Brewers' Company, include some new class-rooms for the teaching of practical science. There is a good science lecture-room, as well as physical and chemical laboratories, both well arranged and equipped. A new art room has also been added. The Brewers' Company have provided the funds for building, and the London Technical Education Board those for furnishing.

THE will of Mr. H. W. Massey, of Toronto, contains numerous bequests to charities and educational institutions. Among the latter are 50,000 dols. to the American University at Washington, for a building to bear his name; 10,000 dols. to the Alma Ladies' School at St. Thomas; 100,000 dols. to the University of Mount Allison at Sackville, N.B.; 50,000 dols. to the Wesleyan Theological College at Montreal; 200,000 dols. to the University of Victoria, Toronto; 100,000 dols. to the Wesleyan College of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

WE learn from the *Lancet* that Glasgow University is to receive under the will of the late Dr. John Grieve the sum of £8000, which is to be applied at the discretion of the court to the foundation of a lectureship, fellowship, or scholarship. The present demand for teaching in the subject of public health is very inadequately met by the existing laboratory arrangements, and the University Court has decided to equip a temporary laboratory until more satisfactory permanent dispositions are possible. Some recent communications with possible benefactors of the University render it probable that a lectureship in geology will shortly be instituted.

As we reported in our issue of February 20 of this year, it was decided by the County Council of Hampshire that the Finance and Technical Education Committees should meet together and report to the next meeting of the Council their opinion upon the manner in which the balance remaining after the annual expenditure on technical education had been defrayed, should be dealt with. At the meeting of the Council held on Monday, the 11th inst., the joint Committees reported that as an Education Bill had been introduced into Parliament dealing with the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Duties, they were of opinion that it would be undesirable to proceed with their deliberations. The report of the Technical Education Committee showed that good work had been done in the county during the past session.

ON Saturday, May 2, the new grounds of Columbia University were dedicated, and the corner-stones of Physics Hall and Schermerhorn Hall were laid. A large and distinguished company gathered to honour the events, among whom were the Governor of the State and the Mayor of the City of New York. Congratulations were sent by the President of the United States. The new grounds comprise about seventeen acres, commanding a fine view of the Hudson, and very near to and in sight of the tomb of General Grant. The site is that of the Battle of Harlem, fought September 16, 1776. On this site a group of buildings are now rising, which will provide admirably for the University, giving it facilities unrivalled by any other in America. Its endowment also places it in the front rank. The University has productive property in New York City valued at twelve million dollars, besides large endowments of personal property. Several of the new buildings are gifts—the library from the President of the University, Seth Low, Schermerhorn Hall from William C. Schermerhorn, and the Havemeyer building from the Havemeyer family. University Hall is to be built by gifts from alumni of the University.

THE Johns Hopkins University is only twenty years old, yet as regards excellence of work it ranks high among the leading universities in the world. A little brochure containing an account of the constitution and growth of the University has been published in commemoration of the recent twentieth anniversary. The fact that contributions amounting to more than a million of dollars have been received, is an indication that the foundation is firmly established in the confidence of the public. Nearly three thousand students have been instructed; three hundred of the graduates have been teachers in universities, colleges, and high schools, and altogether eight hundred persons

who have been pupils of the University have been engaged in teaching; in fact, nearly every university and college in America numbers among its faculty a student of Johns Hopkins University. Since its opening, the University has encouraged the publication of the results of advanced scientific research. Several journals have been regularly maintained, and support has been given to many separate works. Among the most important serial publications are the *American Journal of Mathematics*, *American Chemical Journal*, *American Journal of Philology*, *Studies from the Biological Laboratory*, *Memoirs from the Biological Laboratory*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and the *Johns Hopkins University Circulars*. Many separate publications have also been issued under the auspices, or with the aid, of the University, among the most noteworthy of these being Prof. Rowland's "Photographs of the Normal Solar Spectrum," "The Oyster in Maryland" (a publication in popular form of Prof. Brooks' investigation of the oyster and its relation to interests of Maryland), "Embryology of Insects and Arachnids," by Adam T. Bruce, "Geology and Physical Features of Maryland," by G. H. Williams and W. B. Clark, *Bulletins and Reports of various departments of the Johns Hopkins Hospital*, and a number of topographical and geological maps. For the study of the marine fauna of the Chesapeake region, including the oyster, the Chesapeake Zoological Laboratory, or Marine Station, was instituted in 1878, and a considerable sum of money annually appropriated for its maintenance. Further, the University annually nominates a scholar to occupy a table at Wood's Holl Biological Laboratory, for the prosecution of biological investigation. Thus in a variety of ways the University has fostered original research and sound instruction, and has therefore contributed to the welfare of Baltimore and the advancement of science.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

American Meteorological Journal, April 1896.—A speculation in topographical climatology, by Prof. W. M. Davis. The author refers to certain relations between existing topographic features and climatic conditions, the study of which enable us to infer the vanished climates of the past by means of their still-preserved topographic products. He discusses at some length the records of arid and humid climates, the consequences of various glacial theories, &c., and suggests an exploration of the most critical regions by well-trained topographical climatologists, with the points at issue clearly in mind.—The new meteorological observatory on the Brocken, by A. L. Rotch. This observatory has an elevation of 3750 feet above the sea and is the highest mountain in Northern Germany. Observations, with some interruptions, were made between 1836 and 1869, and have now been resumed under the superintendence of the Prussian Meteorological Institute. The greatest difficulty in securing continuous observations is the frost, owing to which an anemometer cannot be kept in action, and much trouble is experienced with thermometers and rain-gauges; nevertheless, in addition to automatic records, direct observations are made thrice daily, from which important contributions will be added to our knowledge of the upper air. Further particulars of the work at this station will be found in *Die Natur* of the 26th ult. by Herr Koch, the Superintendent.

Bollettino della Società Sismologica Italiana, vol. i., 1896, No. 10 and 11.—Summary of the principal eruption phenomena in Sicily and the adjacent islands during the four months September to December, 1895, by S. Arcidiacono. For the whole year (1895) the following summary is given. Etna was covered by clouds on forty-six days; of the remainder, it was in a state of "emanation" on 172 days, and in a "strombolian" condition on 147 days. In Vulcano, Stromboli, and Salsi di Paternò, no change has occurred except that, on March 29, Stromboli passed from the normal to the explosive phase, at the same time a sensible earthquake was felt at several places in Calabria.—On a new type of seismometer, by G. Agamennone. The instrument consists of a pendulum of mass 200 kg. and length 16 metres, whose movements are magnified by the light horizontal lines at right angles to one another. When the first tremor occurs, the velocity of the strip of paper is increased from about 30 cm. per hour to about 5 mm. per second. The instrument is installed in the Central Meteorological and Geodynamical Office at Rome.—Notices of Italian earthquakes (August–October 1895), the most important being the Adriatic earthquake of August 9.