scholars are to devote themselves exclusively to study and research in some branch of science, the extension of which is important to the industries of the country. The nominating institutions and the scholars are as follows:—University of Glasgow, W. C. Henderson; University of Aberdeen, A. Ogg; Mason College, Birmingham, T. S. Price; University College, Bristol, E. C. Fortey; Yorkshire College, Leeds, H. M. Dawson; University College, Liverpool, H. E. Annett; University College, London, J. E. Petavel; Owens College, Manchester, J. L. Heinke; Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, J. A. Smythe; University College, Nottingham, G. B. Bryan; University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, S. W. Richardson; University College of North Wales, Bangor, D. Williams (conditional appointment); Queen's College, Galway, J. Henry; University of Toronto, A. M. Scott; Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, D. McIntosh; University of New Zealand, J. A. Erskine.

The following scholarships granted in 1895 have been continued for a second year on receipt of a satisfactory report of work done during the first year:—

Nominating institution.	Scholar.	Places of study.
University of Glasgow.	W. Stewart.	Universities of Glasgow and Berlin.
University of St. Andrews.	H. C. Williamson.	Marine Laboratories, Naples and Kiel.
University College, Dundee.	J. Henderson.	Polytechnicum, Munich.
University College, Liverpool.	J. T. Farmer.	MacDonald Engineering Laboratories, Montreal.
University College, London.	E. Aston.	University College, London, and University of Geneva.
Durham College of Science, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	A. L. Mellanby.	MacDonald Engineering Laboratories, Montreal, and Durham College of Science.
University College, Nottingham.	M. E. Feilmann.	Polytechnicum, Zürich.
Queen's College, Belfast.	W. Hanna.	Laboratory of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, London, and Bacteriological Institute, Prague.
McGill University, Montreal.	R. O. King.	MacDonald Engineering Laboratories, Montreal. (To change for second year.)
Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.	T. L. Walker.	University of Leipzig.
University of Sydney.	J. A. Watt.	Royal College of Science, South Kensington.
University of New Zealand.	E. Rutherford.	Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge.

A limited number of the scholarships are renewed for a third year when it appears that the renewal is likely to result directly in work of scientific importance. The following scholarships granted in 1894 have been renewed for a third year:—

Nomina g institution.	Scholar.	Places of study.
Universi of Edinburgh.	J. C. Beattie.	Universities of Vienna and Berlin.
University of Aberdeen.	W. B. Davidson	Universities of Würzburg and Leipzig.
University College, Liverpool.	Dr. A. J. Ewart	University of Leipzig and Botanical Institute, Java.
University of Toronto.	Dr. F. B. Kenrick.	University of Leipzig.

GENEROUS gifts to educational institutions in America have often been noted in these columns. The New York *Critic* has collected some valuable information concerning the total amounts of such gifts and legacies received from various benefactors. Perhaps the following summary of these encouragements will create a spirit of emulation in the wealthy men of the British Isles before whom it may come. George Peabody, various, £1,035,000. Stephen Girard, Girard College, present value about £3,000,000. John D. Rockefeller, University of Chicago, £1,485,200; Vassar College, £20,000; Barnard College, £5000. Miss Helen Culver, University of Chicago, £205,000. Leland Stanford, Leland Stanford Junior University, from £3,000,000 to £4,000,000. Johns Hopkins, Johns Hopkins University, over £600,000. John C. Green, Princeton College and Lawrenceville School, £600,000. Anthony J. Drexel, Drexel Institute, £600,000. Asa Packer, Lehigh University, 115 acres of land and £500,000. Charles Pratt, Pratt Institute, £540,000; Charles M. Pratt, £8000. Leonard Case, Case School of Applied Science, £400,000. Henry W. Sage, Cornell University, £234,000. Cornelius Vanderbilt (deceased), Vanderbilt University, £200,000; William H. Vanderbilt, £92,000; Cornelius Vanderbilt, £8000. Peter Cooper and his family, Cooper Union, £330,189. Paul Tulane, Tulane University, £210,000. Seth Low, Columbia University, £200,000; Barnard College, £2000. Washington C. De Pauw, De Pauw University, £200,000. James Lick, University of California, £150,000. Isaac Rich, Boston University, £140,000. Ezra Cornell, Cornell University, £134,000. J. Pierpont Morgan, New York Trade School, £100,000. Colonel and Mrs. Richard T. Auchmuty, New York Trade School, £82,000. The total of this list, which is probably not complete, amounts to £15,080,389.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

Symons's Monthly Meteorological Magazine, July.—The "International Cloud Atlas." Mr. Symons takes the opportunity offered by the publication of this work (of which only a very few copies have yet been distributed) to make a brief reference to the principal works on clouds which have recently preceded the present one, including M. Weilbach's "Nordeuropas Skyformer" (Copenhagen, 1881), the "Wolken-Atlas" of MM. Hildebrandsson, Köppen, and Neumayer (Hamburg, 1890), M. Singer's "Wolkentafeln" (Munich, 1892), "Classificazione delle nubi" by the Specola Vaticana, containing some excellent reproductions of M. Mannucci's photographs (Rome, 1893), and the Rev. W. Clement Ley's "Cloudland" (London, 1894). The "International Cloud Atlas" (Paris, 1896) has been prepared under the superintendence of the International Meteorological Committee, and contains twenty-eight coloured reproductions of clouds. Although none of them is from an English photograph, Mr. Symons thinks our countrymen may be well content to see how largely the international system of 1896 is based upon the work of Luke Howard, and that the classification adopted is practically that of the joint work of Dr. Hildebrandsson and the Hon. Ralph Abercromby.—The spring drought of 1896. Mr. Symons selected twenty-eight stations distributed over the United Kingdom; these show that the rainfall for the first half of the year at eight out of sixteen English and Welsh stations, the total fell below two-thirds of the average, the lowest values being 48 per cent. at Haverfordwest; while for the Scotch and Irish stations the average was 83 per cent. and 80 per cent. respectively. The results for April and May show that at three stations the rainfall was less than 20 per cent. of the average, the total in London being 19 per cent. In 1893 the drought was more severe in parts of England and Wales, but the 1896 drought in the south of Ireland appears to be unprecedented; at Cork it lasted for sixty-four days.

THE numbers of the *Bulletino della Società Botanica Italiana* for May–July contain, in addition to papers of more local interest, one by Prof. G. Arcangeli on the elongation of the organs of aquatic plants (chiefly *Nymphæaceæ*), in which he expresses the opinion that the stress due to the weight of the superposed liquid is the chief stimulus for their adaptation to the depth of the water in which they live. The same author has a note on the sleep of plants, and the benefits which they derive from the varying positions of the leaves by night and by day.

THE contents of the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano* for July comprise four papers, of which the titles only can be given:—The conclusion of Sig. L. Nicotra's exhaustive essay on the statistics of the Flora of Sicily; Sig. A. Lenticchia on morphological variations in wild and cultivated plants; Sig. F. Tasci on the mycology of the Province of Sienna; Sig. U. Martelli on a new species of *Centaurea* (*C. ferulacea*).

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Royal Society, June 18.—"The Determination of the Freezing-point of Mercurial Thermometers." By Dr. J. A. Harker.

The method adopted is to cool distilled water in a suitable vessel to a temperature below 0°, to insert the thermometer,