

light spring for each loop, so as to keep it taut. The lamp can then be used in any position.

Tungsten seems to be the favourite metal, as it gives a very high efficiency. It is probable the lamp of the future will have an efficiency of nearly a candle per watt, and this is promised by the use of tungsten. At the same time, it must be admitted that to make a wire with a resistance of 500 ohms small enough to give twenty candles with 20 watts is a triumph of inventive skill.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.—The board of anthropological studies recommends in a report to the Senate (1) that a diploma in anthropology be established; (2) that an advanced student who has studied some branch of anthropology under the direction of the board, and has presented a thesis, which thesis has been approved for a certificate of research, shall, on the payment of such fees as the Senate may from time to time determine, be entitled to a diploma testifying to his competent knowledge of anthropology; (3) that any member of the University having graduated before the date of the establishment of the diploma, who has presented a thesis on some branch of anthropology, which thesis has been approved by the board, shall, on the payment of such fees as the Senate may from time to time determine, be entitled to a diploma testifying to his competent knowledge of anthropology.

The John Winbolt prize for engineering for 1907 has been awarded to J. E. Sears, St. John's College, for his essay "On the Longitudinal Impact of Metal Rods with Rounded Ends."

The special board for biology and geology has nominated Mr. A. E. Shipley the representative of the University on the council of the Marine Biological Association from the annual meeting of the association in 1907 to the annual meeting in 1908.

MANCHESTER.—The provision for study and research in metallurgy has been recently very materially increased. The equipment for metallurgy, as also for the heat treatment and mechanical testing of metals, has been brought up to date. Dr. H. C. H. Carpenter, late of the National Physical Laboratory, was elected professor of metallurgy a short time ago, and Mr. C. A. Edwards (Carnegie scholar of the Iron and Steel Institute) has just been appointed demonstrator and research assistant.

SHEFFIELD.—The University council has appointed Mr. Arthur Holden to the post of assistant lecturer and tutor in mathematics. Mr. Holden, who was a scholar of Queens' College, Cambridge, is at present lecturer in mathematics at St. Mark's College, Chelsea. He will enter upon his new duties next session.

THE plans for the restoration of the main building of the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol, have now been approved by the Society of Merchant Venturers; they involve very considerable changes in the arrangements of the original building. From the description of the provision to be made in the new building, it appears that the governors are concentrating the work of their college so as to provide a much more extensive equipment for those departments which train civil, mechanical, electrical, and mining engineers, and prepare for the B.Sc. degrees of the University of London in science and engineering. With this end in view, they will discontinue certain portions of the work formerly undertaken by the college.

REPRESENTATIVES of the University of London to the number of nearly a hundred are this week paying a visit to the University of Paris. The party includes Sir Edward Busk (Vice-Chancellor of the University), Sir Philip Magnus (the Parliamentary representative of the University), Sir Arthur Rücker (the Principal), Dr. Pye-Smith (ex-Vice-Chancellor), members of the Senate, Deans of the several faculties, Mr. P. G. Hartog (Academic Registrar), and other guests. On May 21 the visitors assembled in the grand amphitheatre of the Sorbonne under the presidency of M. Briand, Minister of Public Instruction, who

with M. Liard, Vice-Rector of the University of Paris, delivered addresses of welcome, and Sir Edward Busk replied. Prof. Alfred Croiset and Prof. Gardner, Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the University of London, also spoke. Afterwards the English visitors were entertained at lunch by the municipality of Paris, and in the afternoon paid a visit to Versailles. A reception in honour of the visitors was given by the British Ambassador in the evening. On May 22 there was an excursion to Chantilly. To-day is to be devoted to an inspection of the various departments and laboratories of the Paris University; in the afternoon a reception will be given in honour of the visitors at the Elysée by the President of the Republic and Mme. Fallières. In the evening the English visitors will be the guests of the University of Paris at dinner at the Sorbonne, when the French Ministers of Public Worship and of Foreign Affairs are expected to be present. The dinner will be followed by a concert in the great hall, and a conversation in the reception rooms of the Sorbonne. The party will return to London to-morrow.

THE urgent needs of the University of Oxford led to an important meeting being held on May 16 to consider a scheme for raising a fund to meet them. Lord Curzon, Chancellor of the University, presided over a large and distinguished assembly, and in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Chancellor proposed a resolution:—"That a fund be raised, entitled the Oxford University Appeal Fund, to meet the needs of the University as set forth in the letter signed by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, which was published in the newspapers on May 2, 1907." Speaking in support of the resolution, Lord Curzon announced that the fund was being started with promises and gifts amounting to 57,000*l.*, which includes 10,000*l.* from Mr. Brassey, 10,000*l.* from Mr. W. W. Astor, 2500*l.* from Mr. W. F. D. Smith, 2000*l.* from Lord Curzon, and five donations of 1000*l.* Following the Chancellor's eloquent appeal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer seconded the resolution (which was eventually carried unanimously), and took the opportunity to point out several directions in which the work of Oxford University needed development to keep the University abreast of modern needs. The Archbishop of Canterbury moved:—"That a body of trustees of not less than nine, nor more than twelve, be appointed for the administration of the fund, composed of one-third resident and two-thirds non-resident members of the University, and that the hebdomadal council be requested by the Chancellor to nominate the University representatives, and that the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor be authorised to consult with the leading supporters of the movement as to the appointment of non-resident trustees." Lord Milner seconded the resolution, and it was carried. A further resolution was adopted appointing a committee to consider the best means of raising subscriptions to the fund. Though we are of opinion that the provision of adequate funds for our universities is a State duty, we hope that until that duty is recognised by the Government our men of wealth will see to it that the work at Oxford is not hampered by the want of what is really a modest amount when compared with the greatness of the needs of the University.

### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

#### LONDON.

**Royal Society**, February 14.—"The Purification and Testing of Selenium." By R. Threlfall, F.R.S.

The paper deals with the purification and testing of considerable quantities of selenium with the object of investigating the electrical constants of the element in the pure state. It was found that Ekman's and Pettersson's method is suitable and satisfactory as a means of purification of selenium from other known elements, with the possible exceptions of mercury, tellurium, and arsenic. The analytical separation of selenium from tellurium was investigated, and it was found that the most satisfactory method is by fractional sublimation of the dioxides. It is shown that a sharp separation can be made by subliming a mixture of the oxides containing one part