

Ascent of Beerenberg, Jan Mayen.

THE island of Jan Mayen in the Greenland Sea has been known at least since the early seventeenth century, when it was much frequented by whalers, and was the site of the Austrian meteorological station of 1882-83. The Austrians made an unsuccessful attempt to reach the summit of the volcanic peak of Beerenberg, being foiled by bad weather. In the summer of 1921, the Norwegian meteorological service sent an expedition to Jan Mayen to erect a wireless station. This afforded a passage to Dr. P. L. Mercanton, who was anxious to climb Beerenberg. He was joined by Mr. J. M. Wordie, Mr. T. C. Lethbridge, and three other Cambridge men. In *Écho des Alpes*, No. 8 (Lausanne), 1924, Dr. Mercanton gives an account of the successful climb.

The mountain arises at the north-east end of the small island, and although records occur of volcanic activity on the island in 1732 and 1818, there is no evidence that the main crater has been active during historic times. Certainly there is no sign of recent lava flow. The party ascended the mountain from the south-west by Ekerold Valley over barren ground strewn with volcanic tombs, and passing to the west of Esk or Vogt crater, reached the frontal moraines of the summit glacier at about 2770 feet. The route was then over a gentle ice slope without crevasses to a prominent nunatak at 5249 feet. This was marked by a cairn probably erected by the Austrians as a survey mark. Higher up, a crevassed surface was encountered, but the only real difficulty seems to have been when the bergschrund was reached. At 7448 feet the rim of the ice-filled crater was reached. This crater is about half a mile across, and from a gap on its northern side the Weyprecht glacier falls to the coast.

Beerenberg has two peaks, of which the higher is on the western side of the gap. This was reached along a snow *arête*. Dr. Mercanton gives the summit height as recorded by aneroid as 7661 feet (2335 metres). The figure obtained by the Austrians by theodolite measurement was 8350 feet (2545 metres). This may be compared with Mr. Wordie's figure of 8090 feet, which was also obtained by aneroid reading. The discrepancies between these figures are considerable, but the Austrian figures are not without doubt, largely because they worked with a very small angle. The paper is illustrated by a number of excellent photographs of the mountain and a reproduction of the Austrian map.

University and Educational Intelligence.

BRISTOL.—Their Majesties the King and Queen will open the new wing of the University on June 9. The new buildings are the gift of Sir George Wills and the late Mr. H. H. Wills, in memory of their father, and consist of an imposing tower and a building housing the administrative departments of the University, the main library of the Faculty of Arts and the medical works presented by the Bristol Medical and Chirurgical Society, as well as a number of lecture rooms. The provision of new accommodation for the Faculty of Arts releases a number of rooms adjoining the geological and biological departments, which will thus be afforded much-needed space for expansion.

CAMBRIDGE.—A grant of 25*l.* has been made from the Balfour Fund to Mr. J. T. Saunders, Christ's College, for an investigation of the diurnal movements of the zooplankton of the Swiss lakes. Dr. H. S. Pruthi, Peterhouse, has been nominated to use the University Table at the Zoological Station at Naples for one month.

Mr. D. Keilin, Magdalene College, has been appointed University lecturer in parasitology. Mr. J. A. Carroll, Sidney Sussex College, Assistant Director of the Solar Physics Observatory, has been appointed University lecturer in astrophysics.

The following grants have been made from the Worts Fund:—100*l.* to G. E. Barton, Gonville and Caius College, towards the expenses involved in a visit to Sumatra and elsewhere to complete a study of limestone denudations and other subjects; 100*l.* to A. B. Deacon, Trinity College, towards the expenses involved in a visit to the New Hebrides for ethnological study; 40*l.* to W. G. East, Peterhouse, for a visit to Vienna to inspect certain Foreign Office documents in connexion with historical research; 30*l.* to J. Needham, Gonville and Caius College, for researches on the oxidation-reduction potential of the cell-interior to be carried out at Roscoff in Brittany.

LONDON.—The three following courses of free public lectures have been arranged: "The Biological Aspect of Hydrographical Work," by Dr. J. Schmidt, at University College, at 5.30 o'clock, on June 8 and 9; "Blood and Circulation from the standpoint of Physical Chemistry," by Prof. L. J. Henderson, at University College, at 5.30 o'clock, on June 10, 11, and 12; and "Cardiology," by Prof. J. Hay, at University College Hospital Medical School, at 5 o'clock on June 11, 12, 18, and 19.

OXFORD.—An election to a fellowship in physiology at New College will take place in October. Particulars and the necessary form of application may be had from the Warden, to whom the completed form must be returned not later than June 15.

ST. ANDREWS.—The University Court has appointed Mr. David Jack, at present associate professor in the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh to be an assistant in the Department of Natural Philosophy.

THE Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland will announce in July next the allocation for the five years 1925-26 to 1929-30 of grants to universities and extra-mural colleges. For the quinquennium now expiring these grants amounted to 224,600*l.*, including 25,000*l.* for libraries, 156,000*l.* for new buildings and permanent equipment, and 43,000*l.* towards endowment of lectureships and other general purposes. Special additional grants were made last year towards the equipment of two hostels for women students at Glasgow (5000*l.*) and for the furnishing and equipment of a women students' union at Aberdeen (1500*l.*). Grants in 1923-24 for post-graduate study and research, including fellowships, scholarships, and grants-in-aid, amounted to 18,287*l.* Assistance for students (average 12*l.* each) amounted to 54,000*l.* and voluntary refunds to 1126*l.* A table of refunds since 1901 shows that the maximum (1623*l.*) was reached the year after the War.

APPLICATIONS are invited by the London County Council for two Robert Blair fellowships in applied science and technology, each tenable for one year and each of the value of 450*l.* The fellowships are for advanced study or research, tenable in the dominions, the United States or other countries. They are open only to British subjects. Further information and the prescribed application form (T.2.a 300) may be obtained from the Education Officer (T.2.a), The County Hall, London, S.E.1, upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Completed forms must be returned by June 30.