

AT the annual meeting of shareholders of the Burmah Oil Company, held in Glasgow on June 10, Sir John Cargill announced that the directors had offered £100,000 to establish a college of mining and engineering in the new University of Burma, to be associated in some way with the name of the company.

THE Medical Research Council announces that on behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation the following awards of medical fellowships provided by the Foundation and tenable in the United States of America during the academic year 1927-28 have been made. These fellowships are awarded to graduates who have had some training in research work either in the primary sciences of medicine or in clinical medicine or surgery, and are likely to profit by a period of work at a university or other chosen centre in America before taking up positions for higher teaching or research in the British Isles: Mr. R. W. F. Collis, King's College Hospital, London; Dr. D. Krestin, London Hospital; Mr. G. L. Peskett, University of Oxford; Dr. Isabella M. Robertson, Maudsley Hospital, London; Mr. T. Tennant, Maudsley Hospital, London; and Dr. E. W. Todd, St. Mary's Hospital, London.

FROM the League of Nations Union we have received two pamphlets dealing with topics which might well come before the Imperial Education Conference to be held on June 20. They deal with the League of Nations as a subject of instruction in the schools of Great Britain. One is a report on work done by the Union to promote such instruction. It shows that the measures recommended by the League's sub-committee of experts on the subject, in so far as they depend on the initiative of voluntary associations, have already been adopted energetically and successfully in Great Britain, where they are perhaps less needed than elsewhere. The other pamphlet, "The Schools of Britain and the Peace of the World," is a memorandum signed by representatives of all classes of secondary and elementary schools as well as training colleges. The signatories express agreement with the League's experts on the main issue and, so far as they do not trench on the freedom of teachers, their detailed recommendations. They point out that "the study of international co-operation in the modern world should develop from those studies of modern history and geography which form part of the general school education of every boy and girl," but do not recommend for it a separate place in the curriculum. They uphold the Wilsonian doctrine of loyalty to humanity, which should not be difficult for a citizen of the British Commonwealth—itsself a model League of Nations: "Disloyalty to the whole involves disloyalty to every part, including one's own state." Appended are some useful notes by Mr. F. S. Marvin on the international aspects of history.

A NOTE on the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations has been prepared by the League of Nations Union and associations of teachers as an addendum to the "Schools of Britain" pamphlet, referred to in the preceding paragraph, which was submitted to the Board of Education for consideration in connexion with the National Conference of Education Authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The note directs attention to the modern tendencies to emphasise, in the teaching of history and geography in schools, social developments and industrial conditions rather than names of celebrities and dates of events and names of towns and rivers. It points out that the proposal that the social activities of the League, and, in particular, of the International Labour Organisations, should be noticed in the course of history and geography lessons accords well with these tendencies.

### Calendar of Discovery and Invention.

June 19, 1799.—Goethe under this date wrote: "Late in the evening, when the twilight was passing into a clear night, as I was walking up and down with a friend in the garden, we remarked very plainly about the flowers of the Oriental poppy, which were distinguishable above everything else by their brilliant red, something like a flame. We placed ourselves before the plant, and looked steadfastly at it, but could not see the flash again, till we chanced in passing to look at it obliquely; and we could repeat the phenomenon at pleasure."

June 20, 1773.—The famous Collège de France, founded by Francis I. in 1530, has been the home of many eminent scientific men. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, however, its chairs were often given as rewards for social service. Its reorganisation was due to an Order in Council of June 20, 1773, and after this it became the rendezvous of fashionable crowds who thronged to hear the lectures of Lalande, Rouelle, Daubenton, and others. Biot, Ampère, Regnault, and Berthelot have been among its most famous professors.

June 21, 1835.—In 1830 the Emperor of Russia declared "that the honour of the country appeared to him to demand the establishment, near the capital, of a new astronomical observatory, conformable to the actual state of science, and capable of contributing to its ultimate advancement." The outcome of this was the erection of the magnificent observatory of Pulkowa, the foundation-stone of which was laid on June 21, 1835. Gould once described Pulkowa as the astronomical capital of the world.

June 21, 1849.—Joule's work on the connexion of heat and work was done between 1840 and 1850. He employed various methods in his experiments, but his final results were obtained with the water-friction apparatus now preserved in the Science Museum, South Kensington. His epoch-making paper which gave us the unit, 772 foot-pounds, was entitled, "On the Mechanical Equivalent of Heat," and was communicated to the Royal Society on June 21, 1849, by Faraday.

June 21, 1860.—In 1839 Hooker sailed for the Antarctic with Sir James Ross. The expedition was away four years. One of the results of Hooker's work was his valuable memoir, "Outlines of the Distribution of Arctic Plants," read before the Linnean Society on June 21, and published in the Society's *Transactions* with a map.

June 22, 1857.—When the Great Exhibition of 1851 closed, the Commissioners had a balance of about £180,000. With this they bought the tract of land at South Kensington on which now stand the National Museums and Colleges. The first of these to be erected was the South Kensington Museum, which formed the nucleus of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Science Museum. The original building, an ugly iron structure long known as the 'Brompton Boilers,' was opened by Queen Victoria on June 22, 1857. The present Victoria and Albert Museum was opened by King Edward in 1909, while the first part of the new Science Museum is nearing completion.

June 24, 1784.—The Council of the Royal Society having petitioned George III. for funds to carry out a geodetical survey for connecting the observatories of Paris and Greenwich, on June 24, 1784, the president informed the Council that the King had agreed to the undertaking, "and had permitted Major-General Roy to proceed in the execution of the plan under the direction of the President and Council of the Royal Society."

E. C. S.