

vital to keep afforested. For example, in the case here considered, to check the oncoming effects from the desert to the north, to ascertain over what areas forest will naturally replace destructive forest exploitation, the protection required in the catchment areas of the rivers and springs of the country, and whether hill systems or isolated peaks may be deforested with impunity. Dr. Chipp well sums up the case as to the importance of such investigations in the following :

"The value of the economic interpretations resulting from such a study cannot be over-estimated in the case of a country almost entirely dependent on the character and maintenance of its vegetation, not only for its material wealth, but ultimately for the very existence of its inhabitants. A narrow strip of country abounding in natural and easily exploitable wealth and actually 'sandwiched' between an ever-encroaching desert and the sea, is literally dependent on scientific management to retain its existence. Such management must of necessity be based on studies such as the present, carried out in the field and worked out in the light of a knowledge of similar problems that have been encountered elsewhere."

Dr. Chipp therefore set himself the task of studying the forest-mass from the point of view of the basic units of which it was composed, their characteristics, the factors controlling them, and the scheme by which they joined together to constitute the whole. This, as he says, is where the present work breaks ground. It is impossible, within a limited space, to consider at any length the results achieved, but it may be stated that Dr. Chipp has carried out his object in a most painstaking manner, and it may be hoped that the valuable monograph, of value alike to the forester and the ecologist, is but the forerunner of others undertaken for other parts of the Empire. The work is illustrated with a number of interesting photographs, charts, and plans which serve to interpret the text in the clearest fashion.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—A very important development is indicated in a report of the Council recommending the institution of a library building fund. The need to move the University Library to a fresh site, where it would have room to grow up to its present needs, while keeping an eye on the future, has been urgently before the University for some years, but the sum of £500,000 required for the complete scheme has seemed prohibitive. The Council has, however, found ways and means to finance a scheme of half that amount, and that would enable a substantial part of the new library to be erected. A recent bequest of £65,000 and other available monies are all to be devoted to this one purpose, and a recent increase in the University income under the new statute is in large part also to be assigned to the Library.

The Gordon Wigan prize in chemistry has been divided between A. Caress, Trinity Hall, for an investigation on "The Chemical Reactions of Atoms and Molecules Activated by Electron Collisions," and F. F. P. Smith, Peterhouse, for an investigation on "Studies in Chemical Reactivity."

Mr. J. E. Littlewood, F.R.S., fellow and lecturer in mathematics, Trinity College, has been appointed to the newly established Rouse Ball chair of mathematics.

LONDON.—A course of three free public lectures on "Heredity" will be delivered at Birkbeck College on Feb. 29, Mar. 7 and 9, at 5.30, by Dr. F. A. E. Crew, of the Animal Breeding Research Station, Edinburgh.

ST. ANDREWS.—At a meeting of the University Court on Feb. 17, a resolution was adopted recording the "deep sense of sorrow and loss" occasioned by

the death on Jan. 29 of Field-Marshal the Earl Haig of Bemerseyde, Chancellor of the University for the past six years.

An election to Beit fellowships for scientific research will take place in July next. Forms of application and all information concerning the fellowships may be obtained by letter addressed to the Rector, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, S.W.7. The latest date for the return of application forms is April 20.

PROF. J. H. DIBLE, professor of pathology in the University of London and honorary pathologist to the Royal Free Hospital, has been appointed to the chair of pathology in the Welsh National School of Medicine (University College, Cardiff), in succession to Prof. E. H. Kettle. Prof. Dible previously held pathological appointments in the Universities of Sheffield and Manchester.

DR. LARS G. ROMELL, of the Swedish Forest Experiment Station at Stockholm, has been appointed to the Charles Lathrop Pack research professorship in forest soils at Cornell University. The establishment of this professorship, the first of its kind in an American university, has been made possible by the endowment of 130,000 dollars for the chair, together with important additional gifts for its operating funds, from the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Trust, founded by Charles Lathrop Pack, of Lakewood, N.J., president and founder of the American Tree Association. The new investigation will co-ordinate studies in several fields of science, and apply all the obtainable and applicable knowledge to the special problems of forest soils. Dr. Romell studied at the University of Stockholm, and has done special work in botany at the University of Strasbourg under Prof. Jost, and in botany and cytology at the University of Lund under Prof. Lundegardh; he has also worked on the bacteriology of soils with Dr. Winogradsky near Paris. Since 1918 he has held an appointment at the Swedish Forest Experiment Station, in association with Dr. H. Hesselman, dealing with forest soils. The results of this pioneer work in America will be watched with interest by those concerned in the conservation of wood supply.

THE International Federation of University Women has published a report of its eleventh council meeting held at Vienna last July. At the opening, semi-public, session, Madame Puech, of the French Association, pleaded for a united effort against the exaggerated spirit of nationalism. In former times men of science and letters were to some extent supernatural, but the modern, general, and democratic educational systems tend to foster a spirit which, far from "making the world safe for democracy," creates a feeling in the nationals of each country that it is entitled to a proprietary right in those intellects whose work should be regarded as the common property of humanity, and intellectual workers are thus tempted to adopt an antagonistic attitude towards other nations. To this the Federation can and does oppose its ideal of the open and friendly forum for university women of all countries. Reports from national associations of the United States, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Rumania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, show that all are actively engaged in promoting this ideal. The Federation is financed, however, mainly from America, whence came, last year, nine-tenths of the gifts and subscriptions. The headquarters of the Federation have been transferred from Victoria Street to Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, London, S.W.3.