

submergence, but this is of relatively little importance, if the geological evidence from the coast and islands is to be interpreted as postulating crustal movements extending to the steep fall of the outer reef to ocean depths, a matter also considered in a separate paper by Dr. Bryan on the Queensland Continental Shelf.

Excellent as his work is, we could wish that Mr. Stanley had examined the subsurface topography. We want to know the depths off his cliffs, accurate sections, and we would like the angles of slopes of the lands on either side of some of his deep embayments, with his calculations as to the alterations in level that these require. In any case, the area may well prove to be one in which earth movements are in progress, and the author's account of the lands, together with the Admiralty's re-survey of the seas, should enable these to be deduced in subsequent decades.

Captain Edgell, who was in charge of the re-survey, contributes some general remarks on the coral formations. He suggests that individual reefs of the outer barrier may be fitted together to form atolls with comparatively deep water in the midst of each series, the lagoons. His comparison with Ari and other Maldivan atolls appears apt, but he does not make it clear whether his group of five reefs is to be regarded as an atoll in formation or in decay. The narrow gut, two cables or so across, and about 10 miles long by 30 fm. deep, with almost surface reefs on either side, is an extraordinary feature, being apparently kept open by strong tidal streams.

The topography of the Townsville littoral and other areas shows, according to Mr. Jardine's observations, prolonged denudation, together with coastal drowning, these followed by a slight emergence of 10-20 ft., that has materially added to the coastal plains. This is supposed to be due to a comparatively recent retreat of the sea-level, as seen also in the beaches of the volcanic Bramble and Darnley islands. Bramble Reef also has a small sand cay of foraminiferal tests, coral and shell fragments, much of it consolidated into surface rock by the droppings of birds, as on so many guano islands.

J. S. G.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

GLASGOW.—Prof. Andrew Hunter, of the chair of chemical physiology in the University of Toronto, has been appointed Gardiner professor of physiological chemistry in the University. Prof. Hunter has contributed much to our knowledge of the metabolic products of protein, and of dietary defects and deficiency diseases. He will come into residence in Glasgow next year. It will be recalled that his colleague in the University of Toronto, Prof. J. R. R. MacLeod, has recently been appointed to the chair of physiology at Aberdeen.

Sir Frederick C. Gardiner and his brother, William G. Gardiner, have established a fund, amounting to some £20,000, for the endowment of a chair of music in the University. The professor will hold simultaneously the post of principal of the recently formed Scottish National Academy of Music in Glasgow.

LONDON.—The following doctorates have been conferred: D.Sc. in anthropology on Prof. F. G. Parsons, University professor of anatomy, for a thesis entitled "The Englishman of the Future"; D.Sc. in biochemistry on Mr. William Robson, King's College, for a thesis entitled "The Metabolism of Tryptophane, The Mechanism of the Mode of Formation of Kynuronic Acid from Tryptophane in the Animal Organism"; D.Sc. in physiology on Mrs. Norah Edkins (Bedford College), for a thesis entitled "A Study of Absorption in the Stomach and small Intestine"; D.Sc. in psychology on Mr. J. W. Cox (University College), for a thesis entitled "Mechanical Aptitude: its Existence, Nature, and Measurement."

A SPECIAL course of lectures by Prof. H. Dingle on the technical applications of the spectroscope is to be given in the Technical Optics Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology next January. The institution of the course follows a suggestion by Sir Herbert Jackson, and is an attempt to revive interest in the spectroscope among scientific workers in general, particularly chemists and biologists, so that its uses may be applied to problems in their own domains.

THERE will be an election to not more than three Beit Fellowships for scientific research in July next. These fellowships are tenable for two years at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Candidates must be less than twenty-five years of age, of European descent by both parents, and of university degree standing. Forms of application, to be returned by April 16, and all information may be obtained, by letter only, addressed to the Rector, Imperial College, South Kensington, London, S.W.

At the annual meeting of the Court of Governors of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine held on Nov. 30, the Board of Management of the School presented its fourth Annual Report. Substantial progress has now been made towards the completion of the organisation of the School, of the building, and of its equipment. The work of the old School of Tropical Medicine which was taken over in 1924 continues to make most satisfactory progress, and the Director reports that there is an increase of no less than 17 per cent in the proportion of students sitting for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene who were successful. Advanced courses in bacteriology have been established in temporary quarters in Gordon Square, and all of the five students who sat for the new University Diploma were successful in obtaining it. Special courses in epidemiology and vital statistics have also been established. The professors of public health, of bio-chemistry, and of chemistry as applied to hygiene have been appointed, and will enter upon their duties next year. It is hoped that the handsome building in Portland stone which is being completed in Bloomsbury to the design of Mr. Morley Horder and Mr. Verner O. Rees will be ready for the formal opening next summer.

THE committee of award of the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships announces that it is now prepared to receive applications for the fellowships to be awarded in 1929. After four years' working, the scheme has been so successful that the directors of the Fund in New York have increased the number of ordinary fellowships from twenty to thirty. The ordinary fellowships are tenable at an approved American university for two years. They are open to persons of British descent domiciled in England, Scotland, Wales, or Ireland who are graduates of recognised universities therein and are unmarried and not more than thirty years of age. Women as well as men may apply. Provision amounting to approximately £600 per annum will be made for the total expenditure involved during the tenure of a fellowship. Applications must be forwarded through the authorities of the university or college of which the candidate is, or was, a member. The committee also announces this year five fellowships for graduates of Dominion universities and three fellowships for persons of British descent holding appointments under the British Government, the Government of India, or the Government of a British Dominion, Colony, Protectorate, or Mandated Territory. All information can be obtained from the secretary to the Committee of Award at 50 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.