

were representatives from India, South Africa, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, Fiji, Mauritius, and the Leeward and Windward Islands.

The economic position in each sugar-producing country was outlined, and this was followed by a sketch of the scope and aims of the research stations. Genetics and cane-breeding have hitherto overshadowed the other branches of research, although more attention has lately been given to the control of insect and fungus pests. Interesting details were given of the breeding work at Coimbatore, in South India, where improved varieties of the north Indian hardy cane have been evolved which are estimated to give an increased yield of 50 per cent over the ordinary varieties. Attention is now being given to inter-generic crosses with cereals which aim at reducing the ripening period. One of the Java canes, *POJ 2725*, has been crossed with *Andropogon sorghum* and the hybrid has matured in five months, instead of the normal 10-12 months, and yielded a sucrose content of 16 per cent in the juice. Equally remarkable results have been obtained with tropical or 'noble' canes (*Saccharum officinarum*) in Barbados, where the whole system of cane-breeding first originated. The Department of Science and Agriculture puts out about 16,000 seedlings a year, largely for distribution throughout the West Indies, and one variety in particular, *BH 10 (12)*, is now known all over the world.

Each country, however, has its own peculiar requirements, often depending as much on economic as on climatic or edaphic factors, and has to work out its own salvation as regards varieties. But the fundamental aspect has barely been attacked in the Empire, and there is clearly a case for some central station to undertake long-range research admitted to be outside the scope of the ordinary department of agriculture.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The managers of the Frederick James Quick Fund have elected Mr. David Keilin, Magdalene College, to the Quick professorship of biology for a period of three years from Nov. 1, in succession to Dr. G. H. F. Nuttall, Magdalene College, who has held the professorship since 1906, when it was founded.

W. J. Heasman, of Trinity Hall, has been appointed senior curator, and G. J. Kerrich, of Christ's College, junior curator of the Museum of Zoology.

E. E. Pochin, St. John's College, has been elected to the Michael Foster research studentship in physiology.

LONDON.—Prof. C. Burt, part-time professor of education at the London Day Training College, has been appointed professor of psychology in University College, as from Aug. 1, 1932.

The Sir George Jessel studentship in mathematics awarded to Mr. T. E. Garstang, of University College, for 1930-31, has been renewed for the session 1931-32, and a similar studentship awarded to Mr. H. Kestelman, of University College, for the session 1931-32.

IN a note in NATURE of July 18, p. 124, in referring to the reception at the new premises of Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., it was stated that Prof. Thane discussed text-books; we are informed that the speaker was Prof. H. R. Kenwood, emeritus professor of hygiene in the University of London.

THE following scholarships have been awarded by the Council of the Institution of Naval Architects: Royal Commissioners for the 1851 Exhibition post-graduate research scholarship in naval architecture

(1931), £250 per annum for two years, to Mr. William John Roberts, University of Liverpool; Sir William White post-graduate scholarship in naval architecture (1931), £150 per annum for two years, to Dr. J. A. J. Bennett, University of Glasgow.

SIR CAMPBELL STUART has been appointed chairman of the Beit Fellowships for Scientific Research Trust, and Sir Alfred Beit, a trustee, both in succession to the founder of the fellowships, the late Sir Otto Beit. New fellowships of the value of £250 a year tenable for two years, beginning September 1931, have been awarded to Mr. W. H. Wheeler (University of Cambridge and the Imperial College) for research on the effects of electric and magnetic fields upon gaseous explosions and detonations and to Mr. J. I. Armstrong (Queen's University, Belfast, and the Imperial College) for research on the respiration of Fungi with special regard to inorganic nutrition.

UNDER the patronage of the New Education Fellowship, a prize of 10,000 francs is being offered for the best treatise on "Total Education (Physically, Intellectually, and Morally)". Realising that the total education of an individual is conditioned chiefly by heredity and environment, the object of the competition is to emphasise the necessity of making inherited qualities the best possible, and of a careful development of such characteristics. Each individual can train himself and others in the world-wide propagation of this education, and it is essential that there should be an understanding between educationists, especially from the universal point of view. Further particulars concerning this prize competition can be obtained from either Groupe Français d'Éducation Nouvelle, 41, Rue Gay-Lussac, Paris V<sup>e</sup>, or the Institut de l'Entente Universelle, Terres Rouges, Toulon, Var., the latter of which remains open during vacations.

At the British Commonwealth Education Conference which is being held at Bedford College, London, on July 24-30, under the presidency of Sir Percy Nunn, the general theme will be "Education in a Changing Empire". Native education in Africa and India occupies a considerable part of the programme of the proceedings of the Conference. The education of the non-European in Africa will be considered by the Rev. R. C. Blumer, Dr. G. G. Gillie, Miss Sara Burstall, Dr. S. Rivers-Smith, Mrs. Macgregor Ross, Mr. J. H. Driberg, and Mr. F. S. Livie-Noble. Education in India will be dealt with, under the chairmanship of Sir Phillip Hartog, by A. Yusif Ali, Fakhruddin Ahmad, and others, and the problem of bilingualism in Indian schools will be considered by Dr. Michael West. The Right Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P., will give an address on "Some Education Problems of the Tropical Dependencies". Considerable attention, too, will be directed to interracial understanding, which is all to the good, showing how alive educationists are to this serious problem. Mr. H. Channing Pearce and Miss A. Purvis will give addresses on the problem, and a discussion will be introduced by Mr. Arnold Lloyd. This subject will be closed by an address by Prof. H. J. Fleure. Among other subjects to be considered are vocational guidance, university problems in Africa south of Zambezi (Sir Carruthers Beattie), rural science and schools (Sir John Russell and others), the physical needs of children from 2 to 7 (Dr. James Kerr), growth (Prof. A. H. Harris), an Imperial Film Institute (Dr. T. Drummond Shiels, M.P., Mr. G. T. Hankin, Mr. J. R. Orr, and Prof. J. L. Myres) and modern psychology. Demonstrations of new aids to education include one by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Sir Percy Nunn will consider the question of an Imperial Institute for Education.