University and Educational Intelligence

LEEDS.—The Cartwright Holmes scholarship, which enables a student to take a three or four years' course of study in gas engineering, has been awarded to Richard G. Parker of Plymouth, at present junior technical assistant with the Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke Co. The Corbet Woodall scholarship for a similar study has been awarded to J. Castle, at present junior technical assistant in the Brighouse Corporation Gas Department.

LONDON.—Mr. Alastair Graham, since 1932, lecturer in zoology in the University of Sheffield, has been appointed to the University readership in zoology tenable at Birkbeck College.

OXFORD.—Dr. W. J. Arkell has been elected to a senior research fellowship at New College. He has been lecturer in geology at the College since 1929.

MR. J. G. LAWN, consulting engineer in England to the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., and formerly principal and professor of mining in the South African School of Mines and Technology, now the University of the Witwatersrand, has had conferred upon him the honorary degree of doctor of science of the University.

THE following awards, among others, for the year 1933–1934 have been made by the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry: fellowships renewed to: S. C. Britton, Pembroke College, Cambridge, E. H. T. Hoblyn, Imperial College of Science and Technology, G. Pearce, University of Birmingham, and P. Chisholm Young, Trinity College, Cambridge; fellowships awarded to: N. S. Kelland, St. John's College, Oxford, J. D. Rose, Jesus College, Oxford, F. C. Storrs, Chelsea Polytechnic and University College, London, C. W. Woolgar, King's College, London. The Salters' Institute has also awarded one hundred and ten grants-in-aid to young men and women employed in chemical works, to facilitate their further studies.

THE dissertations of the University of Cambridge approved for the Ph.D., M.Sc. and M.Litt. degrees for the academical year 1931–32, seventy-four in all, are summarised in abstracts, officially approved, and recently published in pamphlet form by the University Registry. The abstracts, varying in length between 200 and 700 words, are arranged in order of faculties. Physics (12), chemistry (10), biology (17), agriculture (7), geology (4), engineering (3) and mathematics (4) account for more than three-fourths of the total number, the remaining seventeen being distributed between English (4), modern and medieval languages (5), oriental (1), history (3), law (1), divinity (1) and moral science (2). Dissertations by members of the Cambridge women's colleges number ten, as follows: in botany 2, geology 2, English 2, history 2, modern and medieval languages 2. The world-wide reputation of Cambridge as a centre for advanced study is reflected in the following analysis: of the 74 candidates, 41 were graduates of other universities—in England and Wales 14, Scotland 6, Australia 9, other Dominions 6, India 1, Denmark 1, Germany 1, United States 2; in physics, half were from Australia (4) and Canada (2); in biology, 11 out of 17 were graduates of other universities and 4 came from overseas.

THE United States Department of the Interior receives annually from its Commissioner of Education a report for the fiscal year ending June 30. The report for 1931–32 defines the purpose of the Federal Office of Education, of which the Commissioner is the head, as "to find out facts about education in all its various phases throughout the several States and in foreign countries and to disseminate such facts in order to assist the people in the several States to establish more efficient systems of schools". Referring to the devastation caused by the economic depression, the report deplores the "lack of confidence on the part of governing bodies and the general public in the powers claimed for education in general and the need for governmental participation in education or any social regulation in particular". The Commissioner's own budget has suffered a cut of one third, involving a serious curtailment of the efficiency and normal development of his office. Among new movements mentioned is the establishment of nursery schools, which have increased from three in 1920 to three hundred. Another is the development of physical education along practical lines as by means of camps. Vocational guidance is now quite generally accepted in theory as a function of the public school, and some form of industrial education is commonly included in the school curriculum. In response to a growing demand for research and service in the field of educational tests and measurements, a specialist in this subject has lately been added to the Commissioner's staff. Research in higher education is being systematically fostered by conferences. The Commissioner is very emphatic as to the importance of the contribution the universities can and should make to *social*, as they have in the past to *material*, progress. "It is," he says, "up to the sociologists, the psychologists, the schools of business, political science and other social science departments to help remove the curse of Midas from America."

Calendar of Nature Topics

"The Twelfth"

To-day the shooting of red-grouse and ptarmigan opens for a comparatively short season—until December 10. The natural history significance of the 'twelfth' is that it indicates the period when the young, born in late April or May after a three-weeks' incubation, are sufficiently strong upon the wing to have a reasonable chance of survival, in other words, to afford good sport. Much depends upon the season which has preceded the 'twelfth': in a year such as the present, when neither frost nor wet nor lack of food interfered with the development of the broods from egg-laying onwards, coveys should be both numerous and well-developed on the opening day. Every legal close season, however, implies that the tendency to slaughter is greater than is desirable, and accordingly the length of the close season for grouse has varied according to the supposed needs of the time. Thus in a Scottish Act of 1427, partridges, plovers, black-cock, greyhens, moor-cocks (or red grouse) and "sic fowles" were forbidden to be taken by any manner of instruments "fra the