Conference held at Chiswick, October 1885," "Report of the Primula Conference held at South Kensington, April 1886, and of the Orchid Conference held at Liverpool, June 30, 1886," "Report on the Effects of Frost on Vegetation during the Severe Winters 1879-80, 1880-81, published in 1887."

4. The Council are of opinion that the connection of the Society with South Kensington, however promising at first, has proved adverse to its true interests and permanent welfare. They recognize that altered circumstances require a complete reorganization of the Society on a more popular basis. They believe that, while local Horticultural Societies attract local support, a central Metropolitan Society (to which local Societies may be affiliated) is, in the interests of horticulture, indispensable. Under analogous circumstances the Royal Agricultural Society prospers, although there are local Societies in every county of the Kingdom.

5. The Council do not believe that the Society can be carried on any longer under the trammels of the existing Charter, which was granted in 1860 in view of a wholly different state of things; nor do they think a Charter will be requisite for its future working. They believe that the numbers of the Council should be considerably increased and their mode of election modified and made popular, and that the ordinary work of the Society should be carried on by Committees, under powers delegated to them by the Council. They hold that the Society should henceforth devote itself strictly to the advancement of practical and scientific horticulture.

6. The view of the Council is that the expenditure of the Society should be reduced as much as possible, and its resources devoted to the following objects:—

(1) The maintenance of the Chiswick Gardens and the conduct of plant, fruit, and vegetable trials there; and possibly the establishment of a School of Gardening.

(2) The immediate engagement of such premises in a convenient and central situation as may suffice for office requirements, the safe housing of the Lindley Library, the meetings of the Society's Committees, and its fortnightly shows, to the maintenance of which they attach great importance.

(3) The publication of periodical Reports of the work done at Chiswick, and by the Society's Committees, and on horticultural subjects generally.

7. For many years the nature of the accommodation which the Society has been able to obtain at South Kensington has virtually prevented meetings being held for the discussion by the Fellows of points of interest in the practice of horticulture. It is essential that these meetings should be resumed, and it is believed that they will be of great value in bringing together those who take an active part in British horticulture. It is also hoped that such meetings would give an opportunity for the consideration of the numerous directions in which the rural economy of the country seems likely to be modified by the substitution of horticultural for agricultural methods.

8. The Council would recommend that the subscription should be in future £2 2s. for Fellows, and that a grade of Member or Associate, at £1 1s., should be created for professional and practical gardeners, who have rarely hitherto belonged to the Society. They calculate that the maintenance of Chiswick will cost £1500 a year, and that for the other purposes of the Society a further sum of not less than £1500 a year will be required. During 1887, 150 Fellows have paid £4 4s., and 623 Fellows £2 2s., making a total of £1938 6s., a sum altogether insufficient for the working and requirements of the Society.

9. In conclusion, the Council believe that the extinction of the Royal Horticultural Society would be regarded by all interested in horticulture as a national loss. The history of the Society, and the good work it has done and is doing, entitle it to the consideration and support of the horticultural world, to whom the Council make this appeal. They address it with equal confidence to amateurs and to the trade, in the belief that their interests are identical, and that for the protection and advancement of these interests the maintenance of the Royal Horticultural Society is essential. The Council have had difficult duties to perform. While they are willing to continue to discharge these duties, if desired, they believe that the best course would be for them to place their resignations in the hands of the Fellows, at the end of the year, so as to leave the Society entirely unfettered. But they consider it due both to the Fellows and to themselves to say that, unless they receive assurances of adequate support, in response to this appeal, the Society must necessarily come to an end.

10. The favour of an early answer is requested on the inclosed form. The Donations would be devoted to the cost of establishing the Society in its new home and to similar purposes.

On behalf of the Council,

TREVOR LAWRENCE, *President*.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Thurston Prize at Caius College, value £54, for the best original investigation by a member of the College in the past three years in physiology, pathology, or practical medicine, has been adjudged to Mr. C. S. Sherrington, M.A., M.B., Fellow of the College.

The Sedgwick Memorial Committee having declined to assent to the building of rooms for teaching purposes with the Sedgwick Fund, while waiting the building of a complete museum; and other proposals having been made, a syndicate has been appointed to plan out the entire disposal of the sites surrounding the new museums, so as to satisfy as many scientific requirements as possible.

Mr. E. C. Dowson has been appointed Demonstrator of Mechanism and Applied Mechanics in succession to Mr. Ames.

Next term the General Board of Studies will nominate a University Lecturer in Pure Mathematics, in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Macaulay. The stipend is £50 per annum, and the appointment will be for five years. A preference will be given to a lecturer who would take subjects not at present represented. Among these are theory of equations, theory of numbers, and projective geometry.

Scholarships in Natural Science will be competed for this month or next at Gonville and Caius, King's, Jesus, Christ's, St. John's, Trinity, Emmanuel, and Sidney Sussex Colleges. The tutors will give full information.

A Clothworkers' Exhibition for Natural Science, tenable at Oxford or Cambridge for three years, will be awarded next July by an examination under the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. Particulars may be obtained from the Censor of Non-Collegiate Students, Cambridge.

Another general modification of examinerships in natural science is proposed, which we shall refer to when it has been discussed by the Senate.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

American Journal of Science, November.—On the relative motion of the earth and luminiferous ether, by Albert A. Michelson and Edward W. Morley. A complete and satisfactory explanation of the aberration of light is given by Fresnel's undulatory theory, which assumes, first, that the ether is supposed to be at rest except in the interior of transparent media; secondly, that in this case it moves with a velocity less than that of the medium in the ratio $\frac{n^2-1}{n^2}$, where n is the index of refraction. The second hypothesis having been fully established by Fizeau's celebrated experiment, the first alone is dealt with in this paper. From the delicate researches here described, which have been carried out by the aid of the Bache Fund, it is inferred that, if there be any relative motion between the earth and the luminiferous ether, it must be small, quite small enough entirely to refute Fresnel's explanation of aberration. It is further shown that the theories of Stokes and Fresnel also fail, and that it would be hopeless to attempt to solve the question of the motion of the solar system by observations of optical phenomena at the surface of the earth.—On the existence of carbon in the sun: contributions from the physical laboratory of Harvard University, by John Trowbridge and C. C. Hutchins. Without discussing the well-known observations of Abney on the absorption-bands in the solar spectrum at high altitudes, or Siemens's hypothesis of the presence of carbon vapour in interplanetary space, the authors here study the remarkable character of the carbon spectrum formed by the voltaic arc in air between carbon terminals, drawing attention to the evidence presented by the juxtaposed solar spectrum of the existence of carbon in the sun. They conclude that at the point of the sun's atmosphere where the carbon is volatilized, the temperature of the sun approximates to that of the voltaic