

In conclusion, I may be permitted to express my gratification that the efforts made by Prof. Callendar and myself to demonstrate the accuracy and convenience of the methods of platinum thermometry are, although progress has been slow, at length awakening the attention of scientific inquirers. We believe (and that belief is founded not only on our own experience, but more especially on the work of Messrs. Heycock and Neville) that it is by means of the platinum thermometer that the many difficulties attendant on thermometric measurements, either at high or low temperatures, can be most easily surmounted.

Although the acquisition and installation of the apparatus has involved a considerable expenditure of both time and money, I am confident that, under the able direction of Dr. Chree, the results will justify the action of the Committee.

APPENDIX.

The following table gives the relation between the platinum temperature scale and the air temperature scale, when the value of $\delta = 1.500$.

Platinum temperature scale.	Correc-tion.	Air tempera-ture scale.	Platinum temperature scale.	Correc-tion.	Air tempera-ture scale.
-100	+ 2.9	-97.1	450	+ 27.0	477.0
- 50	+ 1.1	-48.9	500	+ 34.9	534.9
0	0.0	0	550	+ 44.0	594.0
50	- 0.4*	49.6	600	+ 54.4	654.4
100	0.0	100.0	650	+ 66.2	716.2
150	+ 1.2	151.2	700	+ 79.4	779.4
200	+ 3.1	203.1	750	+ 94.2	844.2
250	+ 6.0	256.0	800	+110.7	910.7
300	+ 9.8	309.8	900	+149.4	1049.4
350	+14.5	364.5	1000	+197.0	1197.0
400	+20.2	420.2			

* More accurately = - 0.375 and 49.625.

E. H. GRIFFITHS.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—It is announced that the electors to the Waynflete Professorship of Mineralogy will proceed to the election of a Professor in the course of the present year. Candidates are required to send to the Registrar of the University, on or before December 7, their applications and testimonials.

The University having accepted a bequest of £900, given by the will of the late Mrs. Fielding, for the purpose of providing for the payment of a Curator of the Fielding Herbarium, it has been decreed that there shall be a Curator of the Herbarium, appointed by the Fielding Curators, and under the direct control of the Sherardian Professor of Botany. Besides the income derived from the bequest of £900, the Curators shall have the power to apply a part of the funds at their disposal to the increase of the stipend of the Curator of the Herbarium.

The following Examiners have been approved by Convocation:—For the first examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, W. R. Dunstan, G. W. S. Farmer, and Dr. R. Stockman; for the second examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, Dr. C. W. Mansell Moullin, Sir William Stokes, G. E. Herman, and Dr. S. H. C. Martin. In each case the appointments are for the examinations of 1896, 1897, and 1898.

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. T. W. Bridge, Professor of Zoology in the Mason College, Birmingham, and Mr. G. H. Bryan, F.R.S., of Peterhouse, have been approved for the degree of Doctor of Science.

Mr. C. T. R. Wilson, of Sidney Sussex College, has been elected to the Clerk Maxwell Studentship in Experimental Physics.

The late Miss Jane Saul has left her collection of shells, and the cabinet containing the same, her "Conchologia Iconica," and other conchological works, to the University.

MR. J. GAD, Extraordinary Professor of Physiology in Berlin University, has been appointed Ordinary Professor of the same subject, and Director of the Physiological Institute in the German University at Prague. Dr. M. von Lenhossek, of Wurzburg,

has been appointed Prosector in the Anatomical Institute at Tübingen. Other recent appointments are: Dr. Mark W. Harrington to be President of Washington State University; Mr. H. Landes to be Professor of Geology in the same University, and Dr. H. C. Myers to be Professor of Chemistry.

DR. C. M. LUXMORE has been appointed to a Research Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society.

MR. JAMES WILSON, Lecturer in Agriculture, University College, Aberystwyth, has been appointed to the Fordyce Lectureship in Agriculture in Aberdeen University.

FROM the *Journal* of the Society of Arts it appears that the great advances made by Swiss national industry during the last fifteen or sixteen years, both in the technical and artistic character of its products, are attributed by the *Deutsches Handels Archiv* to the beneficial influences of State and Municipal establishments for technical education. It is very remarkable how much is done in the cantons of Geneva and Neuchâtel to encourage and improve local industries, especially in finer classes of goods, for the manufacture of which a considerable amount of skill and artistic knowledge is required. In these two cantons, numbering little more than 220,000 inhabitants, there are five schools for watchmakers, and in Geneva, Neuchâtel, and Chaux de Fonds there are schools for instruction in the fine arts and in artistic handicrafts. Besides the institutions there are commercial schools in Geneva and Neuchâtel, and the professional schools in which instruction in various industries is given to persons of both sexes. In the watchmaking school at Geneva a class for girls has recently been established, where certain operations peculiarly suitable for female labour are taught. Considerable assistance is also rendered to the watch industry by the astronomical observatories at Geneva and Neuchâtel, both by testing chronometers, and by their co-operation in the annual trade competitions.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie, Band viii. Heft iv. —This well-illustrated journal is steadily increasing in value and interest, as it is wider in its scope than it was at the commencement. Baron van Hoëvell, of Amboina, has a paper on a few notes on the kinds of the worship of gods in the south-western and south-eastern islands of the Malay Archipelago. Amongst other interesting information is a legend of the origin of two fetiches which are said to have fallen from heaven; one, which is called a sword, is probably a piece of old hoop-iron, and the other, a supposed spear-point, appears to be a piece of meteoric iron. There are also traces of a virginal conception through divine influence.—"Dogs and Primitive Folk" is the title of a comprehensive essay by Dr. B. Langkavel, in which he deals with dogs in folk custom and belief, the name as a term of reproach, ornaments derived from dogs, &c.—Dr. O. Frankfurter writes on dreams and their significance according to a Siamese dream-book.—J. D. E. Schmeltz has three communications on Papuan ethnography, of which the first, on objects from the Tugeri, is the most interesting. We are now beginning to learn something definite about these ruthless pirates that harass the western coast population of British New Guinea. A bow, tobacco-pipe, drum, and two remarkable dance ornaments are figured; the latter are slabs of wood carved to represent a flying bird (?), and several lizards or crocodiles. He also describes a wood-carving of what appears to be an echidna and some ceremonial objects. The rest of the journal is occupied with the usual notes and notices.

IN addition to articles specially interesting to Italian botanists, the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano* for July contains the following:—A study of the action of certain alkaloids on plants in darkness and in light, by Signor A. Maracchi. While quinine arrests the transformation of starch into saccharose, and of dextrose into levulose, both in the dark and in the light, strychnine does so only in the light, from which the conclusion is drawn that these changes are not simply chemical processes, but are dependent on other unknown forces.—On certain contrivances for dissemination in Angiosperms; in which more stress is laid than is generally the case on the action of water in the dispersion of seeds; as, for example, in the production of mucilage, to which the rupture of capsules is often due.—On the fruit of *Aucuba japonica*, by Signor L. Pampaloni.—On the affinities of the *Sphenophyllaceae*, by Prof. G. Arcangeli. The author regards this group of fossil plants as having