

ferred with by the configuration of the land, and except off the coast of Central America, where the south-easterly drift is again "cornered," the effect of the earth's rotation becomes more apparent. The difference due to the Pacific being closed at its northern extremity is extremely striking.

H. N. DICKSON.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

ON Monday the Duke of Devonshire introduced a Bill in the House of Lords to make further provision with respect to the University of London. In the course of a brief statement as to the circumstances which have led to the introduction of the Bill the Duke of Devonshire explained that the Cowper Com, mission reported two years ago in favour of London University being made a teaching as well as an examining University, and recommended the appointment of a Statutory Commission to carry out the details of the scheme. It will be remembered that a Bill dealing with the question was introduced by Lord Playfair in the last Session of the late Parliament, but it was not proceeded with in consequence of the dissolution. His Lordship is reported by the *Times* to have said: "I believe that neither University College nor King's College is altogether satisfied with the scheme as sketched out in the Commissioners' report. But still more formidable opposition has manifested itself, not on the part of Convocation of London University as formally constituted, but on the part of a considerable body of members of Convocation residing for the most part in the provinces. This opposition, I believe, proceeds from an apprehension that under the proposed constitution of the University the teachers of the affiliated institutions and colleges will exercise a large and perhaps undue influence over the examinations of the University, and that students who have prosecuted their studies in independent colleges or privately will in future be placed at some disadvantage. The apprehension is that either the high standard which, it is admitted, has always been maintained by the London University will be lowered, or else that in the examinations arranged by the new body external students will compete on unfair terms as compared with students in the recognised teaching institutions. To meet objections of this kind we give in this Bill a somewhat wider discretion and larger powers to the proposed Statutory Commission than were proposed to be given in the Bill presented by Lord Playfair last year. While the Commissioners will be directed, as in the Bill of last year, to proceed upon the proposals of the late Royal Commission, they will also be directed to inquire into and have regard to the requirements of both the internal and external students. I trust that an opportunity will be afforded, by presenting this measure in a definite shape, to those who are concerned of ascertaining the real character of any opposition which may be offered to the proposed change in the constitution of the London University. Personally I am insensible to the motives which have actuated some graduates in offering considerable opposition to those proposals. After all it is the Senate of the London University which is charged with the duty, and on which rests the responsibility of watching over the interests and upholding the character of the University, and this Bill and the proposals of the Commission which it seeks to carry into effect have, I am assured, the warm approval of a large majority of the Senate of the University of London. This is a measure which practically has been recommended by two Royal Commissions, each of which was composed of men highly competent to pronounce an opinion on such a question as this. It is, I believe, supported by a very large majority of the most eminent scientific and educational authorities in the country, and it is, in my opinion, a very great anomaly, almost approaching to a scandal, that the great City of London should alone of all the great cities in the United Kingdom—and I believe I may add alone among the great cities of Europe—have remained up to this time without a teaching University. The experience during the last ten years of abortive attempts—which I have briefly recounted to your lordships—shows that almost insuperable difficulties exist to the establishment of any such teaching University in any other way than that which has been proposed by the late Royal Commission. It has been almost conclusively proved that the intervention of Parliament through the appointment of a Statutory Commission is necessary, and is the only means by which this desirable end can be effected." The Bill was then read a first time.

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### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE French Senate has adopted the Bill for the establishment of district universities.

THE archaeological library of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford was struck by lightning during a severe storm on Tuesday, and the roof was set on fire, but fortunately the valuable books in the library were not damaged.

DR. J. NORMAN COLLIE, F.R.S., Assistant Professor of Chemistry at University College, London, has been appointed Professor of Chemistry in the Pharmaceutical Society's School of Pharmacy.

IN answer to a question put by Colonel Lockwood in the House of Commons, the Vice-President of the Council said, some nights ago, that the Teachers' Registration Bill could, as far as he could see, only be proceeded with this session if it were made entirely non-contentious.

LORD CROSS, Master of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, on Friday will lay the foundation-stone of a research laboratory in connection with the dyeing department of the Yorkshire College, Leeds. The expense of the new buildings, £15,000, is being borne by the Clothworkers' Company.

THE arrangements for the transfer of the right of patronage to the chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, now exercised by the Crown, to the curators of patronage in the University, and the transfer of the right of patronage to the chair of Botany, now vested in the curators to the Crown, have been incorporated in a Bill, and the Bill has been introduced into the House of Lords by the Government.

AT the annual summer meeting of the Incorporated Association of Head Masters, which was opened on Friday last at Leicester, it was moved: "That to ensure the proper organisation of secondary education it is essential that, with the exception of non-local schools, every school or department of a school providing secondary education should be placed under a county authority administering secondary education." It was further agreed that the "local authority for secondary education should in no case administer a smaller area than that of an administrative county as defined by the Local Government Board."

REFERRING to the cost of education in Switzerland, Her Majesty's Secretary of Legation at Berne points out that it is much less than in England. In 1893 there were 8390 primary schools in Switzerland, with 469,800 children, and an average of 50 pupils per teacher, of whom there were 6290 masters and 3180 mistresses. The expenses of the cantons were, on an average, 50 francs (£2) per pupil, or 8 francs (6s. 8d.) per inhabitant. In the Polytechnic School of Zürich, to which the Federal Government makes an annual grant of £36,800, there are 720 pupils, of whom 309 are foreigners. Instruction is given in architecture, civil engineering, mechanics, chemistry, forestry, and training of teachers. The fees are about £8 10s. per pupil. There are commercial schools in six cantons, where the average expense to the pupil is £18 10s. per head. There are seven universities, with a total of 3742 male and 491 female students in theology, law, medicine, &c., among whom are many foreigners. There are, moreover, technical schools of all sorts for instruction in farming, dairy work, vine culture, &c., established throughout the country. In 1893, in the twenty-five cantons of the confederation, the expenses on account of education were, by the State, £660,200, and by the communes £839,960, making a total of £1,500,160, or an average of about 10s. per inhabitant. Under the heading of technical instruction £1,575,000 was spent in 1894.

THE Committee of Council on Education have decided to modify the existing rules for grants for instruction in science and in art, contained in the Science and Art Directory and the Minute of August 21, 1895, as follows, except as regards organised science schools and training colleges, to which these alterations do not apply:—In place of payments on the results of examination an attendance grant, except as stated below, will be made, on the certificate of the Committee of the