

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

MR. R. P. PARANJPYE, the Indian senior wrangler, has been awarded a special scholarship of 200*l.* by the Secretary of State, partly as a recognition of his remarkable and distinguished success, and partly to enable him to take the M.A. degree.

It is announced that the annual distribution of medals and prizes obtained by the students of the Royal College of Science will take place in the lecture theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum on Thursday, October 5, when Prof. A. W. Rücker, F.R.S., will deliver an address.

A COPY of the Calendar of the Durham College of Science, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been received. The college forms an important part of the University of the north of England. The degrees of Durham in science and letters and its diplomas in engineering are open to students of the college. The courses of instruction in all natural sciences and in every department of engineering are practical and complete, and the chemical, physical and engineering laboratories are well equipped. In addition to the biological laboratories at the College, a marine biological laboratory has lately been opened at Cullercoats, and by the generosity of the Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee is available for college students. The agricultural department has been carefully organised, and has been entrusted with the scientific direction of the farm acquired for the purpose of experiment and demonstration by the County Council of Northumberland.

MANY friends of education will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Theodore Beck, principal of the Mahomedan College at Aligarh, at forty years of age. Writing to the *Times*, a friend of the late principal says:—"Men who were at Cambridge in the early eighties will remember Theodore Beck, scholar of Trinity and president of the union, as one of the most conspicuous figures in the University life of the time. He disappeared from the horizon of his English friends, as do all men who go out to India, when he accepted the post of principal in the recently founded college in Aligarh. When he landed in India in 1883 Sir Syed Ahmad was giving practical shape to that great rationalistic movement which was to regenerate the Mussulmans of India. Beck found himself thrown into the midst of a community the bulk of which was sullenly hostile to the English and all their ways. Sir Syed Ahmad saw that his people did not need to acquire the sciences of Europe alone, but also to readjust their ideals by an English standard; for such a change it was necessary not only that they should learn the matter of English text-books, but should also learn to love and admire individual Englishmen and follow them in the ordering of their lives. If Sir Syed was the founder, Theodore Beck was no less certainly the builder of the college in Aligarh and of the large hopes with which it is synonymous. It was he who gave practical form to the generous aspirations in Sir Syed's mind, and who built up the internal organisation of the college so that it has become the type of a new system of collegiate education in India."

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

IN the *Journal of Botany* for August and September, Mr. W. West, jun., contributes a description of some Oscillatorioidæ from the plankton, including a new marine species, *Oscillatoria capitata*, which is figured; Mr. Spencer Le M. Moore, in Part v. of his "Alabastra diversa," describes a number of new species of flowering plants, and Dr. A. B. Rendle several new grasses from South Africa; Mr. J. W. White adds *Rubus Bucknalli*, sp.n., to the already too numerous British brambles.

THE *Journal* of the Royal Microscopical Society for August contains a continuation (Part v.) of Mr. F. W. Millett's report on the recent Foraminifera of the Malay Archipelago collected by Mr. A. Durrand, and a paper by the president, Mr. E. M. Nelson, on the evolution of the fine adjustment of the microscope, in which a new and important adjustment is described, invented by Reichert. Among the more important paragraphs in the summary of current researches relating to zoology, botany and microscopy is a description of a new electrically heated stage, also invented by Reichert.

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SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, September 4.—M. Maurice Lévy in the chair.—Observations of Swift's Comet (1899 *a*), made with the large equatorial of the Bordeaux Observatory, by MM. G. Rayet and A. Féraud. The observations, twenty-one in number, extend from May 18 to July 15. The mean positions for 1899 are worked out both for the comet and comparison stars.—Remarks by the Director of the "Instituto y observatorio de Marina de San Fernando," offering facilities to astronomers wishing to observe the coming total eclipse of the sun in Spain.—Observations of the planet EP (J. Mascart, August 26, 1899), made at the Observatory of Besançon by M. Chofardet. Note by M. L. J. Gruey. The eight observations given extend from August 29 to September 1, the positions of the comparison stars and the apparent positions of the planets being given.—Observations of the Perseids made at Athens, by M. D. Eginitis.—On the surfaces of the fourth degree which admit an integral of the total differential of the first species, by Mr. Arthur Berry.—On the solidification of hydrogen, by Prof. James Dewar. A tube containing liquid hydrogen, and surrounded by another vacuum jacketed tube containing liquid hydrogen boiling in a vacuum, solidifies, the lower portion being a clear ice-like solid, the upper a solid froth. The density was found to be approximately .086, the liquid at its boiling point being .07. Solid hydrogen melts when the pressure of its saturated vapour amounts to 55 mm. The melting point, as determined by two gas thermometers containing hydrogen under reduced pressure, was found to be 16° above the absolute zero at 35 mm. pressure. The lowest temperature attained in these experiments was about -259° C., or 14° absolute.—On the mode of growth in spirals of appendices in course of regeneration in the Arthropods, by M. Edmond Bordage.

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