four reached a height sufficient to require trigonometrical determination. These were a Hargrave kite, of rhomboidal cross section, with four bands of linen, by Mr. S. H. R. Salmon; a kite of special design, by Mr. S. F. Cody, having the appearance in the air of a very large bird; a similar kite by Mr. L. Cody, and a Burmese kite by Mr. Charles Brogden.

In the course of an hour, four sets of observations were obtained for each kite, and were subsequently computed by Mr. Mason, of King's College, London, in accordance with a systematic programme drawn up by Prof. C. Vernon Boys.

As the result of the calculations, it appears that the greatest height measured for Mr. Salmon's kite was 1250 feet, for Mr. L. Cody's 1476 feet, for Mr. Brogden's 1816 feet, and for Mr. S. F. Cody's 1407 feet, and, therefore, none reached the minimum height required for the award of the medal. This unfortunate result was probably due to the fact that the wind, which had gradually increased from a light air as the sunshine continued, was a surface wind, and fell off in strength at some little height above the surface. The average heights of the several kites from the four observations of each were 1189 feet, 1271 feet, 1554 feet, and 1326 feet respectively.

At 4.45 the signal was given to haul in the kites, and all but one were safely brought back. The wire of this one had become entangled in the trees, and the kite was still in the air when the majority of the visitors had left the ground. The winding gear was in each case hand gear.

The supervision of arrangements for the competition was entrusted to a jury consisting of Dr. W. N. Shaw, F.R.S. (chairman), Prof. C. V. Boys, F.R.S., Mr. E. P. Frost, J.P., D.L., Sir Hiram Maxim, Dr. Hugh Robert Mill, Mr. E. A. Reeves, and Mr. Eric Stuart Bruce, secretary of the Aëronautical Society.

The society and its energetic secretary are to be congratulated upon having carried out successfully a series of arrangements that were necessarily elaborate, and not free from difficulties of many kinds.

THE CELTIC GOLD ORNAMENTS.

THE decision in the Court of Chancery that the gold ornaments from the north of Ireland, and bought as long ago as 1897 by the British Museum, are treasure trove, and, therefore, are to be taken from the Museum and handed over to the King, will produce a curious effect on the mind of the intelligent foreigner. But when he is told that the action at law is due to the persistent claims of the irreconcilable Irish party, he will probably begin to understand the position, from analogous conditions in his own country. The whole affair is to be regretted, but it must in fairness be stated that the entire blame lies at the door of the Irish executive, and that but for their incomprehensible apathy in making no effort to secure the ornaments before the British Museum ever entered the field, there would have been no need for a costly lawsuit. There is, however, a wider application of this particular example, arising from the contention of the Irish archæologists that all antiquities found in Ireland must remain there. Foreign students coming to an institution like the British Museum will expect to find there, primarily, an adequate representation of the archæology of the British Islands—surely not an unreasonable expectation in the central museum of the Empire. But if the Irish contention is to prevail, Scotland will claim equal rights, and Wales also when it decides on a capital for the Principality, so that the earnest student, not generally a wealthy individual, will be compelled to seek out what he wants in widely separated cities. There are, of course, arguments in favour of such a course; but, as a practical matter, there are, in fact, ancient remains enough in these islands to admit of the central museum having a fair comparative series, without in any way damaging the local museum. A little mutual understanding is all that is wanted, and it is to be hoped that the parochial idea that seems to prevail in Dublin will not be thought worthy of Edinburgh. London, after all, is the capital of these islands, and, for one foreign or English student in Dublin or Edinburgh, there are fifty, or, may be, a hundred, who work in London. The greater the number of workers, the greater will be the benefit to science.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE presentation of degrees at the University of London, which took place as we went to press last week, was noteworthy in several respects. Honorary degrees were conferred for the first time in the history of the university, the recipients being the Prince and Princess of Wales, Lord Kelvin and Lord Lister; and representatives of the many and various institutions and organisations which are connected with the university, or are promoting its development, were also assembled together for the first time.

In his report on the work of the university during the year 1902–03, the principal, Sir Arthur Rücker, gave a short description of the educational scheme of the reconstituted university, beginning with arrangements which are primarily intended to be of benefit to those who are not aiming at degrees, and proceeding through the various stages of a university course to post-graduate study and research.

The following are some of the points of general interest mentioned in the report:—

Relation of the University to Schools.—The matriculation examination of the University of London has for many years served some of the purposes of a school-leaving examination. Persons who had passed it were excused by various professional bodies from their own entrance examinations; and for this or other reasons the examination was taken by many candidates who did not intend to pursue a university career. On the other hand, the Senate has for long included the examination of schools among its duties, and of late it has been felt that the time has come for performing this work on more modern lines and on an extended scale. A scheme has therefore been approved by the Senate for the inspection of schools, and the university has been recognised by the Board of Education as an authority under the Board for that purpose. This inspection will include an inquiry into the aims of the school, a consideration of its curriculum and arrangements as adapted to those aims, an inspection of the school buildings and fittings, and of the teaching work of the staff as tested by an inspection of the classes at work.

Entrance to the University.—The first matriculation examination under the new scheme took place in September last. It is a real matriculation examination in the sense that no candidate can begin his university career until he has passed it. It represents the minimum standard of admission to the university, and is intended to be such that it can be passed without special preparation or cramming by a well-educated boy or girl of about seventeen years of age.

The Senate has agreed to waive the matriculation examination altogether in the case of graduates of a large number of approved universities, and of persons who have passed the Scotch leaving examination or hold the *Zeugniss der Reife* from a Gymnasium or Real-Gymnasium within either the German or the Austrian Empire. A large number of persons have availed themselves of this privilege, which will be particularly valuable to those who may intend to supplement a degree taken at another university by study in London.