mountains. He was, from the outset, a most energetic supporter of the movement for establishing a University in Birmingham, and was largely responsible for the working-out of the scheme, for which his legal training and experience qualified him in an unusual degree. When the University became an accomplished fact in 1900, his services to the cause were fittingly recognised by his appointment as the first Vice-Chancellor. His ideas were on a large scale, and he believed in the importance of associating the University with buildings which by their imposing size and appearance should appeal to local patriotism and serve to keep before the inhabitants of a great industrial centre the claims of higher education. Within the University he was known to the undergraduates for his special interest in their social welfare.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, August 26.—M. A. Bassot in the chair.—Edouard **Heckel**: The cultural bud mutation of *Solanum tuberosum*. An account of experiments in the cultivation of wild potato plants from Chile, Bolivia, and Peru. The tubers produced from the cultivated plants were edible, and contained a greater amount of starch than the wild plants. The tubercles from Bolivia showed the characters of mutation; those from other sources appeared to be in course of mutation.—W. H. **Young**: The summability of a function of which the Fourier's series is given.—B. **Bianu** and L. **Wertenstein**: An ionising radiation, attributable to the radio-active recoil, emitted by polonium. It was found to be necessary to use a polonium film in these experiments not exceeding 10$\mu\mu$ in thickness. The curves obtained with a silver disc covered with this thin polonium layer, in presence of a transversal magnetic field of 1100 units, were analogous with those obtained in the case of radium C, and show clearly the existence of an absorbable radiation.—J. **Bougault**: Benzylpyruvic acid. The acid was prepared by the action of alkaline solutions on phenyl-α-oxycrotonamide. The yields of benzylpyruvic acid were good. The condensation products of this acid with itself and with acetone were also studied.—H. **Vincent**: The active immunisation of man against typhoid fever Details of five cases are given which show that inoculations of typhovaccin have a preventive power not only against subsequent absorption of typhoid cultures, but also against a recent infection anterior to the inoculation.—Charles **Nicolle**, L. **Blaizot**, and E. **Conseil**: The conditions of transmission of recurrent fever by the flea. The evidence is against the assumption of hereditary transmission in the flea. Details are given of studies in the necessary conditions for infection.—J. **Wolff**: The stimulating action of alkalies and of ammonia in particular on peroxydase.—P. **Chaussé**: The vitality of the tubercle bacillus tested by inoculation and by inhalation.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Notes on Algebra. By A. F. van der Heyden. Pp. viii+133. (Middlesbrough: W. Appleyard and Sons, Ltd.) 2*s*. 6*d*.

Exercises in Modern Arithmetic. By H. S. Jones. Pp. x+336. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) 2*s*. 6*d*.

British Rainfall, 1911. By Dr. H. R. Mill. Pp. 388. (London: E. Stanford, Ltd.) 10*s*.

Life Understood from a Scientific and Religious Point of View, &c. By F. L. Rawson. Pp. xv+660. (London: The Crystal Press, Ltd.) 7*s*. 6*d*. net.

Identification of the Economic Woods of the United States. By Prof. S. J. Record. Pp. vii+117+6 plates. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 5*s*. 6*d*. net.

Forestry in New England. By Profs. R. C. Hawley and A. F. Hawes. Pp. xv+479. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 15*s*. net.

Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, Northumberland. Report for the year ending June 30, 1912. New Series. I. Edited by Prof. A. Meek. (Newcastle-on-Tyne: Cail and Sons.) 5*s*.

Catalogue of the Periodical Publications including the Serial Publications of Societies and Governments in the Library of University College, London. By L. Newcombe. Pp. vii+269. (Oxford: H. Hart.)

Catalogue of the Periodical Publications in the Library of the Royal Society of London. Pp. viii+455. (London: H. Frowde.)

Results of the Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Mauritius, in the year 1902. Pp. xxii+lxxviii+5 plates. Ditto, 1903. Pp. xxi+lxxiv+7 plates. Ditto, 1908. Pp. xxv+lxxxviii+6 plates. (Mauritius.)

An Introduction to the Study of the Protozoa, with special reference to the Parasitic Forms. By Prof. E. A. Minchin. Pp. xi+520. (London: E. Arnold.) 21*s*. net.

Eugenics and Public Health. By Prof. K. Pearson. Pp. 34. (London: Dulau and Co., Ltd.) 1*s*. net.

Darwinism, Medical Progress, and Eugenics. The Cavendish Lecture, 1912. By Prof. K. Pearson. Pp. 29+7 plates. (London: Dulau and Co., Ltd.) 1*s*. net.

Instinct and Experience. By Prof. C. Lloyd Morgan. Pp. xvii+299. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.) 5*s*. net.

Lebensbild eines Naturforschers. By E. du Bois-Reymond. Zweite Auflage. Pp. 50. (Brackwede i.W: Dr. W. Breitenbach.) 80 pfennigs.

Grundriss der Biochemie für Studierende und Aerzte. By Prof. C. Oppenheimer. Pp. vii+399. (Leipzig: G. Thieme.) 9 marks.

The Boy's Playbook of Science. By J. H. Pepper. Revised, &c., by Dr. J. Mastin. Pp. x+680. (London: G. Routledge and Sons, Ltd.) 5*s*.

Dana's Manual of Mineralogy. Thirteenth edition. By Prof. W. E. Ford. Pp. viii+460. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 8*s*. 6*d*. net.

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