

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales has written to the Press to say that he is prepared to undertake that the University will arrange that, in the case of students who entered the University in 1911, the coming session shall not be reckoned as the last of the four years beyond which honours in the B.A. or B.Sc. degree cannot be obtained, so that they may complete honours schemes in the session 1915-16 under the same conditions under which they would have completed them in the coming session. He says it will be understood that, as pursuance of qualifying courses is essential for initial degrees, a year of absence cannot be reckoned as a year of the qualifying period; but, subject to this proviso, he has no doubt that the University will be anxious to consider cases of disability arising, other than the one above provided for, with the view of making special arrangements for their relief.

THE former circular on geometry, issued five years ago by the Board of Education, has exercised a marked and unquestionably beneficial influence on elementary education. We do not know of any geometrical text-book, published since that date, which has not taken account of it, and we have frequently directed attention to it in these columns. That circular is now out of print, and the Board has, therefore, drawn up the present memorandum (*Memorandum on the Teaching of Geometry in Secondary Schools*) which covers the same ground, slightly more elaborately. Now that it is generally recognised that Euclid's postulates are far from being exhaustive, and that any philosophically complete set involves abstract considerations, wholly unsuitable for immature minds, there seems to be a growing consensus of opinion in favour of widening the basis of deduction, and including in it such spatial ideas as the ordinary boy (when he appreciates the significance of the statements made) regards as obvious. A proof which is not the cause of intellectual conviction, if only because belief exists independently, stands *ipso facto* condemned. The basis which has been suggested includes the fundamental properties of angles at a point, parallelism, and congruence. This provides a perfectly intelligible system of postulates and requires nothing which will present any difficulty to a boy who is capable of geometrical work of any kind, if the facts are presented to him in a satisfactory manner; and it enables him to proceed to apply deductive methods to the establishing of properties of which he realises the need of proof, thus arousing in him that interest which springs from a recognition of the utility of his work.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Vaccination Question in the Light of Modern Experience. By Dr. C. K. Millard. Pp. xvi+244+10 plates. (London: H. K. Lewis.) 6s. net.

Suggestions for a Course in Climatology in Correlation with Geography. By W. E. Whitehouse. Pp. 31. (Aberystwyth: University College.) 1s.

Report on Scottish Ornithology in 1913, including Migration. By E. V. Baxter and L. J. Rintoul. Pp. 96. (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd.) 1s. 6d. net.

General Report on the Operations of the Survey of India during the Survey Year 1912-13. Pp. x+43+maps. (Calcutta: Survey of India.) 3s.

Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India. Vol. xli. Part 2: On the Geology and Coal Resources of Korea State, Central Provinces. By Dr. L. L.

Fermor. Pp. iv+148-245. Vol. xlii. Part 1: The Burma Earthquakes of May, 1912. By J. C. Brawn. Pp. vi+147. (Calcutta: Geological Survey of India; London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.) 4s. each.

Annals of the South African Museum. Vol. x.: Descriptions of New Species of Lepidoptera Heterocera in the South African Museum. By W. Warren. Pp. 467-510+2 plates. (London: West, Newman and Co.) 6s.

Ninth Annual Report of the Meteorological Committee, for the year ended March 31, 1914. Pp. 69. (London: Wyman and Sons, Ltd.) 4d.

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