

The Mayor of Lyons hopes to secure as complete a collection as possible of papers relating to the war, so that students and investigators of diverse subjects—meteorologist or historian, hygienist or sociologist—will eventually regard it as the central bureau for their own particular studies of the times through which which we are now passing. All branches of human activity having relation to war questions or problems will be embraced by the library, and no article or other publication will be considered too unimportant for inclusion. It is hoped that authors of all contributions upon these subjects will send copies of their works to the Bibliothèque de la Guerre of the city of Lyons, and will co-operate in other ways to make the collection complete.

UNTIL recent years the personal side of academic scientific history has not attracted with us the general attention that its human interest deserves. A notable exception is, however, afforded by the accounts given in the biographies of Lord Kelvin of the relations between Glasgow and Cambridge in his early days. A very interesting narrative of about ten years later has now appeared in the form of a notice of G. M. Slessor, of Queens' College, senior wrangler of 1858, and for a few years professor at Belfast, a mathematician of well-known achievement, whose high promise was cut off by early death at the age of twenty-eight. The biography, accompanied by a striking portrait, is in the *Aberdeen University Review* for June, 1915; it is written by the Master of Emmanuel, Dr. P. Giles, largely from material contributed by Sir James Stirling, F.R.S., who was a pupil and friend of Slessor, and was himself an Aberdonian senior wrangler a few years later. It may be commended to the notice of all concerned with the preservation of the scientific and academic personal records of the period.

## SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

### PARIS.

**Academy of Sciences**, July 19.—M. Ed. Perrier in the chair.—**J. Boussinesq**: The existence in our physico-mathematical sciences of fundamental chapters still in the same rudimentary state as the dynamics of Aristotle.—**Georges Lemoine**: The catalysis of hydrogen peroxide in homogeneous media with acids and alkalis. Pure water acts as a catalyser on hydrogen peroxide. The addition of acids even in very small proportions, some ten-thousandths, reduces the rate of decomposition. Curves are given showing the relation between rate of decomposition and concentration of acid for sulphuric and hydrochloric acids. Alkalis accelerate the rate of decomposition, and the results of experiments with soda, potash, and lithia are given.—**C. E. Guye** and **Ch. Lavanchy**: The experimental verification of the Lorentz-Einstein formula by kathode rays of high velocity. Using the method of identical trajectories described in an earlier paper it was found that the Lorentz-Einstein formula on the variation of the inertia as a function of the velocity was verified with great precision by all the measurements.—**E. Fleurent**: Remarks on bread for prisoners of war. A method of preparing bread is described giving a product not liable to mould, and preserving its flavour intact even after keeping a month or longer in a moist, dark cupboard.—**Louis Roule**: Fish from the lower depths of the sea of the family of Brotulidae in the North Atlantic.—**E. Vasticar**: The nuclear formation of the external auditive cells and of Deiters cells.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED.

Chemistry of Familiar Things. By S. S. Sadtler. Pp. xiii+320. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co.) 7s. 6d. net.

A Text-Book on Practical Mathematics for Advanced Technical Students. By H. L. Mann. Pp. xii+487. (London: Longmans and Co.) 7s. 6d. net.

Metropolitan Water Board. Eleventh Report on Research Work, together with Index to Research Reports. Nos. i.-x., inclusive. By Dr. A. C. Houston Pp. 52+vii. (London.)

How Belgium is Fed. Pp. 28. (London: National Commission for Relief in Belgium.)

The National Physical Laboratory. Report for the Year 1914-15. Pp. 136. (Teddington.)

The National Physical Laboratory. Collected Researches. Vol. xii., 1915. Pp. iv+173+plates. (London: Harrison and Sons.) 12s.

An Introduction to Mining Science. By J. B. Coppock and G. A. Lodge. Pp. ix+230. (London: Longmans and Co.) 2s. net.

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