

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON.—Mr. H. G. Plimmer, F.R.S., has been appointed professor of comparative pathology in the Royal College of Science, South Kensington.

FOUR lectures will be delivered at Gresham College, E.C., on "Typhus Fever and Cerebrospinal Meningitis," on October 5-8, by Dr. F. M. Sandwith, Gresham Professor of Physic. The lectures are free to the public, and will begin each evening at six o'clock.

A SERIES of lectures on "The Wonder-workers of the Soil" will be given in the fellows' rooms of the Royal Botanic Society of London, Regent's Park, N.W., on October 4, 11, and 18, by Prof. W. B. Bottomley. The lectures will deal with:—(1) soil bacteria in relation to soil fertility; (2) the story of soil inoculation; (3) the discovery of auximones (accessory food substances).

By the will of Mr. W. Jackson, engineer, of Aberdeen, who left, in addition to real estate, personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at 77,052*l.*, one-half of the ultimate residue of his property, which is subject to his wife's life interest, is left for the establishment of a chair of engineering in the University of Aberdeen, any balance being then applied for charitable or benevolent objects in Aberdeen.

THE Manchester Municipal School of Technology publishes separate prospectuses of its part-time courses, and those in chemistry and chemical technology and in mathematics, physics and natural science, have been received. The part-time courses include:—apprentices' day courses for engineers' and other apprentices whose employers allow them to devote one whole day per week to study; evening courses, involving attendance on three evenings a week for five years, and leading to the Associateship of the School of Technology; and other evening and part-time day classes for advanced study and research, in preparation for the external degrees of the University of London, in technological or trade subjects, in various branches of natural science, and in other subjects. Further particulars of the work of the college were given in NATURE for August 12 last (vol. xcvi., p. 664).

THE new session of the Sir John Cass Technical Institute, Aldgate, E.C., which is especially devoted to technical training in chemistry, metallurgy, and physics, and in the artistic crafts, will commence on September 27th. The instruction in experimental science provides systematic courses for London University examinations in addition to the courses on higher technological instruction, which form a special feature of the work of the Institute. The curriculum in connection with the fermentation industries includes courses of instruction on "Brewing and Malting" and on the "Micro-Biology of the Fermentation Industries." A series of lectures dealing with the supply and control of power has been arranged. These will comprise lectures on "The Supply and Control of Liquid, Gaseous, and Solid Fuel," "Electrical Supply and Control," and "The Transmission of Power." In the department of physics a special course will be given on "Colloids," which will deal with the methods employed in their investigation and their relation to technical problems; also special lectures on "The Influence of Surface Tension on Chemical Phenomena." In the metallurgy department special advanced courses are provided on gold, silver, and allied metals, iron and steel, metallography and pyrometry, heat treatment of metals and alloys, and mechanical testing of metals and alloys.

THE calendar for the current session has reached us from the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol, in which the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Bristol is provided and maintained. The college aims at providing a sound, continuous, and complete preparation for an industrial career, and its work is carried out in a secondary school, in day classes, and in evening classes. The calendar gives much evidence of the success of the governors of the college in securing the co-operation and support of the employers of the district. Many engineering firms have expressed willingness, other things being equal, to give preference to students who have completed the full college course, and some are prepared to take students at reduced premiums, while others will waive premiums altogether. Many local employers exempt from overtime, on not more than three days a week, persons in their employ who attend the college evening classes. A list of such persons is sent to each firm at the beginning of the session, with a list of the nights on which they ought to attend the classes; and a monthly return of the attendances of the evening students belonging to each firm is also forwarded. The Board of Trade accepts attendance at the evening classes in engineering in lieu of a portion of the workshop service required from candidates for the Board's certificate of competency as engineer. In other ways, too, such as by gifts and loans of books and plant, the employers of labour are showing a growing interest in the useful and varied work of this important technical college.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Geological Society, June 23.—Dr. A. Smith Woodward, F.R.S., president, in the chair.—Prof. Xavier Stainier: A new eurypterid from the Belgian Coal Measures. The discovery is recorded of a specimen of a new Eurypterus in the cores of a trial-boring for coal in Belgium. The fossil, which is in a satisfactory state of preservation, is described. A short description of the eleven Carboniferous species known up to the present is appended. The nearest form to the Belgian fossil seems to be a Pennsylvanian Eurypterus, which, nevertheless, is not identical with the former. The geological range and the evolution in time of the twelve Carboniferous eurypterids is discussed.—R. B. Newton: A fossiliferous limestone from the North Sea. The material was trawled from the floor of the North Sea. It presents no appearance of glaciation, so that its occurrence *in situ* seems to be highly probable. There is no record of a similar limestone from either England or Scotland. It is of highly siliceous character and full of marine shells, of which the Pelecypoda are the more prominent; there are fragments of wood in contact with the limestone which appear to show coniferous characters. Some twenty-three species of mollusca have been determined, all of which exhibit a southern facies, including a new dosiniiform shell belonging to the genus *Sinodia*, the relationships of which are confined to the Indian Ocean regions of Southern Asia. Eighteen of the species trace their origin from the Vindobonian stage of the Miocene, ten may be regarded as extinct, whereas twelve still exist in recent seas. The majority of the species are fairly evenly distributed in both the Coralline and the Red Crag formations of East Anglia, although it is thought that the rock must be of older age than Red Crag. Additional support is given to this view, because such shells as *Arcoberna sericea*, *Tellina benedeni*, and *Panopaea menardi* are not known of later age in this country than the Coralline Crag. The occurrence also of extinct