

We learn from the *Times* that the members appointed in India to the Calcutta University Commission are Sir Ashutosh Mukharji, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University; Mr. W. W. Hornell, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal; and Dr. Zia-ud-din-Ahmed, of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh. The chairman of the commission will be Dr. Michael E. Sadler, who will be associated with three other members appointed in the United Kingdom, viz. Mr. P. J. Hartog, Prof. Ramsay Muir, and Prof. J. W. Gregory. The general terms of reference to the commission are to inquire into the working of the present organisation of the Calcutta University and its affiliated colleges, the standards, the examinations, and the distribution of teachers; to consider at what places and in what manner provision should be made in Bengal for teaching and research for persons above the secondary-school age; to examine the suitability of the present situation and constitution of the University and make such suggestions as may be necessary for their modification; to make recommendations as to the qualifications to be demanded of students on their admission to the University, as to the value to be attached outside the University to the degrees conferred by it, and as to the relations which should exist between the University and its colleges or departments and between the University and the Government; and to recommend any change of constitution, of administration, and of educational policy which may appear desirable.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, September 10.—M. Paul Appell in the chair.—H. Le Chatelier and E. L. Dupuy: The heterogeneity of steels. A modification of Stead's etching reagent is suggested, with full details of use. The macroscopic structure is well brought out by this reagent.—P. Termier: The posthumous notes of Albert Cochain.—H. Dupont: Orthogonal systems.—P. Humbert: The piriform surface.—M. Fréchet: The notion of neighbourhood in abstract ensembles.—L. Launoy: The delicacy of the general method of extracting alkaloids from water. Working on 200 c.c. of solution, making alkaline with sodium carbonate, and with chloroform as the extracting solvent, 0.0001 gram of alkaloid (7 in 2,000,000) can be detected. With aconitine one-half of this proportion has been detected.—M. Travers: A new volumetric method for the estimation of molybdenum and vanadium in steels. The molybdic acid is reduced with titanous chloride, the excess being determined by means of a ferric salt in the usual way. The same reagent is applied to the estimation of vanadium.—L. Genil and L. Joleaud: The existence of transported strata in the region of Bizerte (Tunis).—M. Baudouin: The wisdom tooth, which varies with the nature of the food, is not tending to disappear.—P. Wintrebert: The automatism of the first movements of the body in *Scyllium canicula*.—H. J. Hamburger and D. J. de Waard: The influence of radio-active substances on the permeability of the kidneys to glyucose. The retention of some glyucose in the kidney has been found to depend on the presence of small proportions of potassium salts. In the absence of a salt of potassium, under the conditions of the experiment, no glyucose is retained by the kidney. As potassium is the only radio-active element normally present in the body fluids, other radio-active substances were tried in the place of the potassium. It was found that uranium nitrate, radium bromide, and mesothorium could replace the potassium, if the strengths of the solutions were correctly adjusted.—F. d'Herelle: An invisible micro-organism antagonistic to the dysenteric bacilli.—A. Lumière: The use of iodide of starch in the treatment

of infected wounds. In the treatment of infected wounds the problem is to find a substance which, sufficiently stable and active, must not be immediately destroyed by the tissues, and of which the action ought to persist for several hours, or even days. Iodide of starch appears to meet all these requirements, and in the strengths suggested is not an irritant.—J. Danysz: The origin of the specific affinities between pathogenic microbial products and the animal organism.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Gravitation: Discovery of its Cause and Mechanism. By H. Jamyn Brooks. Pp. 48. (Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith, Ltd.) 1s. net.

Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis. Fourth edition. Vol. ix. Edited by W. A. Davis. Pp. xviii+836. (London: J. and A. Churchill.) 30s. net.

Carnegie Institution. Researches of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. Vol. iii. Ocean Magnetic Observations, 1905-16, and Reports on Special Researches. By L. A. Bauer and others. Pp. vii+445. (Washington: Carnegie Institution.)

A German-English Dictionary for Chemists. By Dr. A. M. Patterson. Pp. xvi+316. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 9s. 6d. net.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1.

SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS, at 5.30.—Sewage and its Precipitation; Further Experiments: R. Brown.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Further Notes on Recapitulatory Attitudes in Lepidoptera: Dr. T. A. Chapman.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Education Reform. By W. A. T.	61
Experimental Embryology. By E. W. M.	62
Our Bookshelf	63
Letters to the Editor:—	
Shell-shock and its Lessons.—Prof. G. Elliot Smith, F.R.S., T. H. Pear; Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones	64
The Convolvulus Hawk-moth.—Right Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., F.R.S.	66
Vitality of Lice.—Henry Cohen	66
The Autumn Moon. By Sir G. Greenhill, F.R.S.	67
The Resources and Production of Iron and other Metalliferous Ores	68
The Efforts of French Industry during the War. By E. S. Hodgson	69
Notes	70
Our Astronomical Column:—	
A New Comet	74
An Empirical Law of Planetary Distances	74
Eclipsing Variables	74
The Egyptian Oil Field. By J. W. G.	74
The Statistics of the Dairy. (With Diagram.) By Prof. D'Arcy W. Thompson, C.B., F.R.S.	75
Agriculture in Madras	76
Science and Industry in South Africa. By Prof. John Orr	76
University and Educational Intelligence	79
Societies and Academies	80
Books Received	80
Diary of Societies	80

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