

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

BIRMINGHAM.—At the last meeting of the council of the University a communication was received from Dr. R. S. Heath stating that owing to ill-health he desired to retire from his appointments as vice-principal, professor of mathematics, and registrar. Dr. Heath was appointed to his chair in Mason College in May, 1884—thirty-four years ago. Appointed chairman of the College Academic Board in 1889 and principal of the college in 1890, he was included in the University charter as the first vice-principal, undertaking in addition the duties of registrar. As a member of council and senate he has rendered splendid service to the University, and ably represented it on many educational bodies.

Dr. Stacey Wilson is resigning his lectureship in medicine to dental students in September next, after upwards of twenty-six years' service.

Dr. Mary Clarke is resigning her post as lecturer in hygiene to students in the Training College for Women owing to a great increase in hospital work.

Upon the nomination of the Dean of the medical faculty, the council has appointed Dr. Thomas Wilson Sub-Dean of the faculty.

Miss B. M. Bristol and Miss N. Carter have been appointed honorary demonstrators in botany for the current term.

THE Dr. Edith Pechey Phipson post-graduate scholarship of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women is to be awarded in June. It is of the yearly value of 40*l.* for a period not exceeding three years, and is open to all medical women, preferably coming from India or going to work there, for assistance in post-graduate study. Applications must be received by May 31 by the Warden and Secretary of the School, 8 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

In connection with the Department of Applied Statistics and Eugenics of University College, London, the Crewdson Benington studentship in anthropometry and craniology (value 100*l.*) and a Francis Galton studentship in eugenics (value 130*l.*) are to be filled in July next. Candidates must be post-graduates, and have had training in mathematics, physical measurements, biology, and computing. Applications should be made to the Director of the Biometric and Galton Laboratories, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1.

THE report on educational reform adopted by the conference of the London Teachers' Association in November last has been issued in pamphlet form. It anticipates in some respects the chief provisions of the Education Bill introduced by Mr. Fisher in February last, which is now under consideration in Committee of the House of Commons. It is highly satisfactory to find so important a body of teachers in whole-hearted support of the measures of educational reform initiated and so convincingly advocated by Mr. Fisher, and it should have a highly beneficial influence in promoting the ultimate passage of the Bill. Where the aims of the conference go beyond the provisions of the Bill, which are, in effect, in the nature of a practical compromise of conflicting demands, and might well await the results of experience, it would be wise for the great body of teachers to give unwavering support to the measure as it stands, which, if it is to have any chance of success in the present Parliamentary session, will need all the help the friends of education can bring. There has grown up during these nearly four years of calamitous war a strong

conviction that the salvation of the nation is to be found in the provision of the means of complete education for all classes of the people, especially with a view to the extended electorate and the grave responsibilities which it implies; that the children are the nation's greatest asset; and that for the comparatively large number of really capable children to be found in all strata of the nation, even the lowest, there should be brought into existence the fullest facilities for their adequate training, alike physical, intellectual, and moral, so as to fit them for the duties of life and for the highest service, according to their capacities and opportunities. The conference demands the most complete university education and training for all classes of teachers in both subject and method, and an unlimited scope for gifts and experience, with adequate reward during service and due provision on retirement, and insists that in all grades of the inspectorate there shall be guarantees of high practical skill as teachers and full knowledge of the best educational theory. Only on such terms can the nation be assured of a corps of efficient public servants in the most important of its many various spheres of national service.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Royal Society, April 25.—Sir J. J. Thomson, president, in the chair.—Sir Charles Parsons: Bakerian lecture: Experiments on the production of diamond. The paper alludes to some of the results of experiments described in papers by the author to the Royal Society in 1888 and 1907, particularly to those on the decomposition by heat of carbon compounds under high pressure, and on the effect of applying pressure to iron during rapid cooling. A description is given of experiments designed to melt carbon under pressures up to 15,000 atmospheres by resistance heating and by the sudden compression of acetylene oxygen flame, also by the firing of high-velocity steel bullets through incandescent carbon into a cavity in a block of steel. Allusion is made to experiments on chemical reactions under high pressure and their results. The pressures occurring in rapidly cooled ingots of iron, and experiments bearing upon this question, are discussed. Experiments at atmospheric pressure and also *in vacuo* are described. The main conclusions arrived at are:—That graphite cannot be converted into diamond by heat and pressure alone within the limits reached in the experiments; that there is no distinct evidence that any of the chemical reactions under pressure have yielded diamond; that the only undoubted source of diamond is from iron previously heated to high temperature and then cooled; and that diamond is produced, not by bulk pressure, as previously supposed, but by the action of the gases occluded in the metal and condensed into the centre on quick cooling.

Geological Society, April 17.—Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, president, in the chair.—A. E. Trueman: The evolution of the Liparoceratidæ. The Ammonites considered include several subparallel series, of which four genera were indicated by Mr. S. S. Buckman in "Yorkshire Type Ammonites." The details of ontogeny and the sutures have been employed in constructing tables showing both the biological and the stratigraphical relations of the various species; a revision of the existing classification is proposed. The early members of each series are similar "capricorn" forms with slender whorls and stout ribs. In somewhat later examples the outer whorl is swollen and has paired tubercles. From this stage the tendency is to shorten