

in which the bond of union would be the science rather than its application. On the other hand, in addition to agricultural chemists attached to the Provincial Departments, this Conference is definitely of opinion that a strong central body of chemists should be maintained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture from whom Provincial Departments could draw for the investigation of special problems."

The main objection taken was, it will be observed, based on the idea that men would usually be transferred after five-year periods. We have explained already that such idea forms no part of the system which we contemplate. It is also significant that the same resolution declared the necessity of a strong central body of chemists for the Department of Agriculture; and, it may be added, the same meeting pointed out the desirability of equipping the agricultural research organisation to deal with certain industrial problems arising out of agricultural research. The sum of these conclusions seems to point to the desirability of supplying some agency which can correlate chemical research with agricultural and industrial problems, and of avoiding the needless expense of creating separate research nuclei for dealing with each separate class of chemical problems.

A conference of chemists was convened in Lahore in January, 1918, by the Indian Munitions Board. It included not only Government officers, but also chemists attached to missionary colleges and employed under private firms. The conference passed no formal resolution, but strongly supported the proposed system of scientific services.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—As stated in our issue of June 24 (p. 537), a donation of 1000*l.* has been received for the provision of lectures on tropical agriculture for five years. Dr. C. A. Barber has been appointed as lecturer in tropical agriculture.

Dr. F. W. Aston has been elected to a fellowship in Trinity College.

In presenting Sir Joseph Thomson and Sir Joseph Larmor for honorary degrees at Cambridge recently, the Public Orator spoke as follows: "Democritus, philosophus ille antiquus, ut mundum explicaret, atomos finxit, solida rerum primordia, non partium conventu conciliata,

'sed magis æterna pollentia simplicitate.'

Sed, ut discipulus illius ait, difficile est credere in rebus esse quidquam solido corpore, quod demonstravit Professor noster. Atomum enim ipsum ingressus, partes discevit, ordinavit, legibus subjecit. Immo ut Græcus ex atomo κόσμον eduxit, Anglus in atomum κόσμον introduxit. Et multa quidem ejusmodi investigavit, quæ dicere non concedit Latini sermonis egestas; hoc saltem concedit exponere, quanta universorum lætitia collegio suo Magistrum a Rege impositum nuper viderimus." And: "Adest alter e burgensibus nostris, idem rei physicæ Professor, Isaaci Newton et Georgii Gabrielis Stokes non indignus successor, Societatis Regiæ olim a secretis, qui scientias innumeras provinciam sibi depoposcit et illustravit. Ut carmen quoddam cenaticum discipulorum commemoremus

'æthera materiemque electraque cogitat ille
omnia quæ possint mentes confringere nostras.'

Sed quem mundus ut virum sollertem ingeniosum sapientem miratur, illum collegium suum amicum diligit, providum modestum fidelem. Quem si amplissimis honoribus hodie extollit Academiâ nostra, hoc multæ et apud nos et apud exteros facere occupaverunt."

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EDINBURGH.—Her Majesty the Queen has consented to accept the honorary degree of LL.D. on the occasion of the impending laying of the foundation-stone of the new chemistry department.

GLASGOW.—The degree of D.Sc. was conferred on June 23 on the following:—P. A. Hillhouse, for his thesis "Ship Stability and Trim," with other papers, and D. B. Meek, for his thesis "Cyclonic Storms in the Bay of Bengal for a period of thirty years, from 1886 to 1915 inclusive, with special reference to their Location and Direction of Motion," with other papers.

On the same occasion the following special class prizes were awarded:—Mathematics (Advanced Honours Class): The Cunninghame gold medal to J. M'Kinnell. Natural Philosophy (Ordinary Class): The Cleland gold medal to D. H. Findlay. Political Economy: The Alexander Smart memorial prize to Stewart Mechie. Moral Philosophy (Honours Class): The Edward Caird medal to I. W. Phillips.

On June 24 the degree of LL.D. was conferred on Dr. J. MacIntyre and Sir Robert W. Philip.

LONDON.—At a meeting of the Senate on June 23 Dr. S. Russell Wells was re-elected Vice-Chancellor for the year 1920–21.

Communications were received from the University College Committee and from the Dean of the University College Hospital Medical School, setting forth respectively the terms of the recently published offers made by the Rockefeller Foundation to present (a) to the University, on behalf of University College, the sum of 370,000*l.*, and (b) to University College Hospital Medical School the sum of 835,000*l.*, for the advancement of medical education and research. Resolutions were adopted expressing the Senate's grateful appreciation of the magnificent generosity shown by the Trustees of the Foundation to the University and to the Medical School of University College Hospital, and accepting the offer made for the benefit of University College.

Mr. A. E. Jolliffe, tutor in mathematics at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was appointed to the University chair of mathematics tenable at the Royal Holloway College; Dr. B. J. Collingwood (professor of physiology at University College, Dublin) to the University chair of physiology tenable at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School; Prof. L. R. Dicksee to the Sir Ernest Cassel chair of accountancy and business methods tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. H. C. Gutteridge to the Sir Ernest Cassel chair of commercial and industrial law tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. T. E. G. Gregory to the Sir Ernest Cassel readership in commerce, with special reference to foreign trade, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. D. Knoop to the Sir Ernest Cassel readership in commerce, with special reference to the organisation of industry and trade in the United Kingdom, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. H. Dalton to the Sir Ernest Cassel readership in commerce, with special reference to tariffs and taxation, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. L. Rodwell Jones to the University lectureship in commerce, with special reference to commercial geography, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr. J. D. Smith to the University lectureship in commerce with special reference to business organisation, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science; and Mr. T. A. Joynt to the University lectureship in commerce, with special reference to transport and shipping, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Grants from the Dixon Fund for 1920–21 were

made to Mr. A. S. E. Ackermann, for researches into the physical properties of clay; Mr. J. T. Carter, for researches on the minute structure of the teeth of fossil mammalia; Mr. L. T. Hogben, for researches on the influence of ductless glands; Miss M. A. Murray, for the study of anthropology in Egypt; Dr. F. J. North, for preparing illustrations for work in palæontology; Mr. A. K. Wells, for the conduct of a geological survey of part of Merionethshire; and Dr. C. West, for researches on the effect of environmental factors on the growth of *Helianthus*.

The degree of Bachelor of Science in household and social science for internal students is to be instituted.

MR. P. J. HARTOG, Academic Registrar of the University of London, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dacca, Bengal.

DR. R. E. M. WHEELER has been appointed keeper of the department of archæology in the National Museum of Wales, and lecturer in archæology in the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

WITH reference to the recent offer by the Government of a site for the University of London (see NATURE, May 27, p. 404), a largely attended meeting of the council of the University of London Graduates' Association was of the opinion that the "offer of land on the Duke of Bedford's estate, accompanied by an undefined maintenance grant now made by the Government, is in no sense an equivalent for the accommodation as at present guaranteed by the Government, and does not comply with the stipulations laid down by the Senate."

THE following bequests, among others, of the late Dr. Rudolf Messel have recently been published:—500*l.* to the Royal Institution of Great Britain; 1000*l.* to the Chemical Society; 2000*l.* and his platinum still, "in which I carried out with W. S. Squire my experiments in connection with the decomposition of sulphuric acid," to Mr. Squire, requesting him on his death to leave it to the Society of Chemical Industry; his platinum crucible to the Society of Chemical Industry; and his electric telephone by Reis to the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The residue of the property is to be divided into five parts, four of which are to go to the Royal Society and one to the Society of Chemical Industry, the wish being expressed that the fund shall be kept separate from the funds of the society, the capital to be kept intact, and the whole of the income expended in the furtherance of scientific research and other scientific objects, and that no part thereof shall be applied for charitable objects, as the granting of pensions and the like.

THE first annual conference of the International Federation of University Women will be held at Bedford College, London, on July 12-14. The federation has been formed to promote understanding and fellowship between educated women of different nations, and to unite them into a league to further their common interests and to strengthen the foundations of international sympathy which must form the basis of the League of Nations. The practical means by which the federation seeks to realise its aims are: (1) Organisation of a system of exchange of lecturers and scholars of different universities. (2) Provision of international scholarships and travelling fellowships, particularly the endowment of post-graduate and research scholarships. (3) Establishment of club-rooms and hostels for international hospitality in the various centres of university life. (4) Useful co-operation with the National Bureaux of Education in the various countries. Further information may be obtained from the acting secretary, Miss T. Bosanquet, Universities Bureau of the British Empire, 50 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

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Societies and Academies.

LONDON.

Aristotelian Society, June 7.—Prof. Wildon Carr, vice-president, in the chair.—Rev. A. E. Davies: Anselm's problem of truth and existence. The famous proof of the existence of God is not purely ontological, but rather the verification of a specific mode of experience termed "faith." In Anselm's words, it is "faith seeking understanding," and by "faith" is meant a mode of immediate apprehension, awareness of God. Two stages are distinguishable in the reasoning. The first seeks to prove that we must think of ultimate reality in terms of existence. Here the appeal is to logical thought. In the second stage Anselm proves that this ultimate reality is his personal God. Here the appeal is to experience. The argument implies that truth and existence are two ultimate forms of reality: existence is the reality of things, truth the validity of thought-contents. Hence truth must be sought in terms of validity. This is the logical character of the "proof." We can "only know as perfectly as possible." We know existent reality only as our thinking is valid, and we cannot think validly that God is non-existent. Between these two ultimate forms of reality is presupposed a fundamental agreement, such that the relations of thought validly represent the real relations of things. For Anselm such agreement has its ground in God. A second implication is that when thinking is valid it starts from existence, in the same sense that its contents are occasioned by existent reality. So that without experience we cannot know. The ethical character of the basic conception of God proves it to be no mere thought-product—that is, knowledge presupposes a mode of reality dissimilar from itself.

Zoological Society, June 15.—Prof. E. W. MacBride, vice-president, in the chair.—Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell: Report on the additions to the society's menagerie during the month of May, 1920.—Prof. J. E. Duerden: Exhibition of and remarks upon a series of ostrich eggs.—Miss Joan B. Proctor: (1) A collection of tail-less batrachians from East Africa made by Mr. A. Loveridge in the years 1914-19. (2) The type-specimen of *Rana Holsti*, Boulenger.—R. I. Pocock: The external and cranial characters of the European badger (*Meles*) and the American badger (*Taxidea*).—Dr. R. J. Tillyard: Life-history of the dragon-fly, with special reference to Australasian forms.

Mineralogical Society, June 15.—Dr. A. E. H. Tutton, past president, in the chair.—F. P. Mennell: Rare zinc-copper minerals from the Rhodesian Broken Hill Mine, Northern Rhodesia. Copper minerals, including malachite, chesylite, copper-glance, and undetermined phosphates, are of rare occurrence in the lead-zinc ore of this locality. Still rarer are the copper-zinc minerals aurichalcite and veszelyite; the latter forms minute sky-blue monoclinic crystals ($a:b:c=0.71:1:0.95$), and differs from the original mineral from Hungary in its colour and in containing little or no arsenic.—Prof. R. Ohashi: Note on the plumbiferous barytes from Shibukuro, Prefecture of Akita, Japan. This mineral, which is deposited as a white to brownish-yellow crystalline crust in the fissures and near the orifices of hot springs, is similar to the mineral recently called "hokutolite" from Taiwan (=Formosa); it contains 4.69 to 17.78 per cent. of PbO, and is radio-active.—W. A. Richardson: The fibrous gypsum of Nottinghamshire. The relation to the nodular types of gypsum of the fibrous veins of the mineral, which are associated with every other type of gypsum deposit in the district and occur at levels