

In pronograde apes, as in four-footed animals, the tail is made up of two parts which are structurally and functionally quite different. The free or terminal part is put to many uses; the pelvic or basal part is always associated with a visceral function. To it the rectum is always attached, and certain muscles which guard the pelvic outlet act upon the pelvic segments of the tail and use it as a perineal shutter. It is the external or post-pelvic segment of the tail which has disappeared from the body of man and the orthograde apes; the pelvic part has survived as the coccyx, and its visceral musculature as the levator ani muscle. With the evolution of the upright posture the pelvic muscles which act on the tail had to bear the steady burden of the abdominal viscera—had to be in action as long as the orthograde posture was maintained. They could not serve in the support of the viscera and the movements of the tail at the same time. Hence only the pelvic part of the tail was retained—the part on which the pelvic musculature acted. In pronograde apes the pelvic visceral musculature is attached to the peculiar chevron-like bones (hæmal arches) placed beneath the pelvic vertebræ of the tail; the reappearance of hæmal arches in the human embryo during the second and third months of development may be regarded as definite proof that man comes of a pronograde ancestry. Tarsius spectrum, for which Prof. Wood-Jones claims a special human relationship, is devoid of all features which mark the orthograde group of Primates; in its tail and tail musculature Tarsius is a pure pronograde Primate.

University and Educational Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Doncaster Laboratory for Research in Mining is to be transferred to Birmingham University, under the directorship of Dr. J. S. Haldane, who has accepted the post of honorary professor.

CAMBRIDGE.—The council of St. John's College has appointed Dr. T. J. I'A. Bromwich to be prælector in mathematical science.

An interesting report issued by the Board of Research Studies shows that there are at present in residence seventy-two students admitted as candidates for the Ph.D. degree. The largest number working at any one subject is thirteen for physics. Botany and chemistry with eight each come next, followed by English and history with seven each. Graduates of British universities number thirty-three; sixteen come from Colonial universities, ten from India, and six from the United States.

An analysis of the voting last term on the admission of women as members of the University shows that there was a majority of 33 out of a poll of 405 among the resident teachers in the University in favour of their admission. The University professors also supported the proposal by 27 votes to 15.

Honorary degrees of LL.D. were awarded on Saturday to Sir Patrick Manson, G.C.M.G., and Dr. Albert Calmette, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris. Prof. J. Hjort, the oceanographer and marine biologist, was also given the honorary degree of Sc.D.

Mr. H. G. Carter has been appointed director of the Botanic Gardens.

LONDON.—The Prince of Wales has consented to attend the graduation dinner on the evening of May 5, on the afternoon of which day he will receive the honorary degrees of Master of Commerce and Doctor of Sciences, and will reply to the toast of "The New

Graduates." The Guildhall has been kindly placed at the disposal of the University for this purpose by the Lord Mayor and Corporation, and the Lord Mayor has accepted an invitation to be present.

Dr. Anne Louise McIlroy has been appointed to the University chair of obstetrics and gynaecology tenable at the London School of Medicine for Women.

Prof. J. P. Hill has been appointed to the University chair of embryology tenable at University College.

The degree of D.Sc. in botany has been conferred on Miss K. M. Curtis, an internal student of the Imperial College (Royal College of Science), for a thesis entitled "The Life-history and Cytology of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.), Perc., the Cause of Wart Disease in Potato."

The Graham Legacy Committee has appointed Mr. V. R. Khanolkar to the Graham scholarship in pathology for two years from April 1, 1921. The value of the scholarship is 400*l.* a year. Since October last Mr. Khanolkar has been assistant bacteriologist in University College Hospital.

IN response to the recent appeal of the University of Edinburgh for 500,000*l.*, the sum of 200,000*l.* has now been subscribed.

MR. W. D. EGGAR will deliver a course of four lectures on Greek mathematics at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Tuesday to Friday, March 1-4, at 6 p.m. Admission will be free.

PROF. E. W. SCRIPTURE, formerly of Yale University, has been appointed to the faculty of the University of Hamburg for the summer semester. He will lecture on English philology and experimental phonetics. Two articles by Prof. Scripture on the nature of vowel sounds appeared in NATURE for January 13 and 20.

An election of Beit fellows for scientific research is to take place on or about July 15 next, and the latest date upon which applications can be received is April 19. Forms of application and information respecting the fellowships are obtainable by post from the Rector, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, S.W.7.

IN connection with the 1920-40 Science Research Fund of Girton College, Cambridge, a fellowship of 300*l.* a year tenable for three years is being offered by the college for research in the mathematical, physical, and natural sciences. Particulars of the fellowship may be obtained from Miss Clover, Coleby, Grange Road, Cambridge, and applications for the fellowship will be received by her not later than March 31 next.

A COURSE of four public lectures on "The History of Plant Delineation" will be given in the lecture-room of the botany department of University College, London, on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., beginning on March 2. Dr. Charles Singer will deal with the art of the ancient empires and of the Dark and Middle Ages, and Dr. Agnes Arber with the period from the invention of printing to modern times. The lectures, which will be illustrated by lantern-slides, are open to the public without fee or ticket.

THE formal opening of l'Institut Français, Cromwell Gardens, S.W., will take place on Saturday, February 26, at 3 o'clock, under the presidency of his Excellency M. le Comte de Saint Aulaire, Ambassador of France. The Minister of Public Instruction, M. Léon Bérard, will represent the French Government. The English Board of Education and the

London County Council will be represented. The Paris Municipal Council and the University of Paris will each send three delegates. Among the latter will be M. Henri Bergson. The rector of the Institut's mother-University of Lille is also expected to be present.

PROF. LUIGI LUIGGI has accepted the invitation of the University of London to deliver a course of six lectures on "Recent Engineering Works in Italy" during his forthcoming visit to England. Dr. Luiggi is the professor of hydraulic engineering in the University of Rome, and also president of the Italian Society of Engineers. The lectures, which have been arranged to be given at the Institution of Civil Engineers at 5.30 p.m. on March 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 18, will be open to the public without fee or ticket. They will be illustrated with lantern-slides, which promise to be of particular interest. The chair at the first lecture will be taken by the Italian Ambassador.

THE Council, the Delegacy, and the Professorial Boards of King's College have resolved to found a memorial to the late Dr. R. M. Burrows, who guided the fortunes of the college with such brilliant success during his seven years' tenure of the office of Principal. The memorial will take the form of a tablet to be erected in the college chapel, together with a Ronald Burrows prize, exhibition, or scholarship to be awarded annually to a student of the college who has distinguished himself in the field of Greek studies. Prof. H. G. Atkins has consented to act as honorary treasurer of the memorial fund, and subscriptions may be sent to him at King's College, Strand, W.C.2.

THE annual general meeting of the Association of Technical Institutions will be held at the Grocers' Hall, Princes Street, London, E.C., on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5. The president-elect, the Right Hon. Viscount Burnham, will deliver his presidential address, and papers will be read by Principal C. T. Millis on "Junior Technical Schools: Their Status and Position," Dr. W. M. Varley on "The Report of the Departmental Committee on Scholarships and Free Places," Mr. H. Stainsby on "Technical Instruction for the Blind," and Principal W. J. Chalk on "Technical Instruction in London of the Higher Branches of Commerce." Important resolutions dealing with the necessity for closer co-operation between the technical colleges and the universities will be submitted for consideration, together with other resolutions on educational matters.

THE annual dinner of the Finsbury Technical College Chemical Society was held on February 18. The president, Mr. A. J. Hale, who occupied the chair, expressed the hope that ultimately the function might develop into a reunion between the past and present chemical students of the college. Mr. J. H. Coste, in proposing the toast of the college, referred to the splendid work which has been done in the past and how every effort was being made by the Finsbury Technical College Defence Committee and by various institutes and societies to prevent the threatened closing of the college. Until the authorities definitely decided to keep the college open, Mr. Coste urged that no effort to gain that end should be relaxed by those interested. This view was warmly supported by Prof. G. T. Morgan. Attention was also directed to the plea for keeping open the college recently made in the columns of NATURE and supported by Sir Oliver Lodge (February 10, p. 757). Mr. C. R. Darling expressed a hope that in the event of the college remaining open its present curriculum would not be altered or its freedom interfered with in any way.

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Calendar of Scientific Pioneers.

February 24, 1799. Georg Christoph Lichtenberg died.—The discoverer of the dust figures on electrified planes, Lichtenberg held the chair of physics at Göttingen, and in his day was well known in both Hanover and England.

February 25, 1723. Sir Christopher Wren died.—Before he became famous as an architect, Wren was known as a mathematician. He was one of the founders of the Royal Society, and for twelve years Savilian professor of astronomy at Oxford.

February 26, 1878. Angelo Secchi died.—The successor of the Jesuit father, de Vico, as director of the observatory at the Collegio Romano, Secchi was a pioneer worker in the field of stellar spectroscopy, and his grouping of stellar spectra into types represents one of the results of his extensive studies of this subject.

February 27, 1864. Edward Hitchcock died.—Schoolmaster, minister, and, lastly, professor of chemistry and natural history at Amherst College, Hitchcock suggested and carried out the geological survey of Massachusetts. He is recognised as one of the fathers of American geology.

February 27, 1906. Samuel Pierpont Langley died.—The great pioneer of aviation, Langley was originally a civil engineer, but abandoned that profession for astronomy. For the study of the infra-red portion of the solar spectrum, in 1880 he devised the spectro-bolometer—an electrical resistance thermometer of extreme delicacy. In 1887 he became secretary to the Smithsonian Institution. Taking up the investigation of the resistance offered to planes moving through the air, he was led to the construction of the steam-driven model flying machine which in 1896 made successful flights of half a mile. Having thus demonstrated the practicability of mechanical flight, he left the commercial and practical development of the idea to others.

February 28, 1882. Thomas Romney Robinson died.—An Irish clergyman, Robinson for many years directed the Armagh Observatory. He was also a physicist, and in 1843 invented the well-known cup anemometer.

February 29, 1744. John Theophilus Desaguliers died.—Like Dollond, Demoivre, Demainbray, and others, Desaguliers was of Huguenot extraction. Educated at Oxford, for many years he lectured there and in London, and rendered notable services to science when some acquaintance with scientific principles was first considered fashionable. He was the second recipient of the Copley prize.

March 1, 1862. Peter Barlow died.—Professor of mathematics at Woolwich, Barlow was a pioneer in the study of the strength of materials, and did much important work in terrestrial magnetism.

March 2, 1840. Heinrich Wilhelm Mathias Olbers died.—A doctor at Bremen, Olbers, by limiting his sleep to four hours nightly, accomplished much astronomical work, and was the discoverer of the minor planets Pallas and Vesta.

March 2, 1911. Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff died.—A student under Kekulé and Wurtz, van't Hoff became a professor at Amsterdam, and in 1896 professor of chemistry to the Prussian Academy of Sciences. A great physical chemist, he developed the theory of solutions, and was one of the founders of stereochemistry. With Le Bel in 1893 he was awarded the Davy medal, and in 1901 he received the Nobel prize. E. C. S.