

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.

NO. 2678, VOL. 106]

### 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 Pierpoint 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.