

that in a sense they were keeping their second centenary, since that Society went back to 1717. Most of their old mathematical books were acquired from that Society. Allusion was made to the invaluable services of two assistant secretaries, Mr. Williams, known for his studies of Chinese comet records, and Mr. W. H. Wesley, who had now held that office for 47 years; much to their regret, illness prevented him from taking part in the centenary celebration. Allusion was made to the Society being consulted on the question of the remeasurement of the fundamental arcs in the British survey, and to the granting of the new charter in 1915, permitting the election of lady Fellows.

Prof. Turner followed with a biographical address, illustrated by portrait slides; he began with Queen Victoria, who had been their Royal Patron during two-thirds of their existence. He noted that former kings of Denmark and Siam had been honorary members, a distinction also awarded to Caroline Herschel, and several other famous lady astronomers, the latest being Miss Annie Cannon. The portraits included Sir W. and Sir J. Herschel, Francis Baily, Daniel Moore, Stephen Groombridge, Mr. Colebrook, Richard Taylor (first editor and printer of the Monthly Notices, and founder of the firm of Taylor and Francis).

The afternoon meeting was opened by the reading of the minutes of the preparatory meeting held at Freemason's Tavern, Gt. Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, on January 8, 1820, at which Mr. Daniel Moore was chairman, the fourteen persons present all signing the declaration that they would help to forward the formation of the proposed Society.

Six of the Associates present were then invited to speak on their recent work. Dr. Seares spoke on the systematic differences of colours of giant and dwarf stars of the same type, the dwarfs being redder; he also discussed absolute magnitude as a function of galactic latitude. Prof. Strömberg spoke on solutions of the three-body problem by mechanical quadratures. Prof. H. Shapley spoke on his recent work of finding absolute magnitudes from objective prism spectra; also on the local cluster round the sun, stated to be 2000 light-years in diameter, and on the recent discovery of faint Cepheid variables in the Magellanic Cloud.

Dr. Hertzsprung spoke on the Cepheid variable RR Lyræ, showing that it has several superposed periodicities.

Dr. Aitken dealt with double stars, stating that his special aim was to form an exhaustive catalogue of all doubles down to the ninth magnitude within certain limits of distance. He stated that 15 per cent. of his discoveries already show orbital motion.

Dr. St. John spoke on the absence of the lines of oxygen and water vapour from the spectrum of Venus, stating that one metre thickness of each would have sufficed to give a register. He mentioned that the rotation of Venus is probably at least 15 days. The Einstein shift in the solar spectrum is still engaging attention. If present it is evidently partially masked by some other cause; the shift towards the red that is found is not proportional to wave-length.

The Society dined at the Criterion Restaurant in the evening. Lord Balfour was the guest of honour, and proposed the toast of the Society in felicitous terms, the president making a suitable reply.

On Wednesday the Fellows and Associates were the guests of the British Astronomical Association.

On Saturday, June 3, the Society was entertained by the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich on the occasion of the annual Visitation of the Observatory.

A. C. D. CROMMELIN.

University and Educational Intelligence.

LEEDS.—An open fellowship of 200*l.* per annum, established by the Institution of Gas Engineers, is offered for the prosecution of post-graduate research in gas chemistry. Applications will be received by the Registrar of Leeds University until June 19.

LIVERPOOL.—Honorary degrees were conferred at a special Congregation of the University held on May 19. The Bishop (the Right Reverend Francis James Chavasse), Mr. Justice Pickford (Baron Sterndale), and Sir Henry Alexander Miers, vice-chancellor of the University of Manchester, received the degree of doctor of laws; Dr. L. P. Jacks, Principal of Manchester College, Oxford, and Editor of the *Hibbert Journal*, that of doctor of letters, and Sir Charles Sherrington, Waynflete professor of physiology in the University of Oxford and president of the Royal Society, that of doctor of laws. For eighteen years Sir Charles Sherrington was the George Holt professor of physiology at Liverpool, and his services to the University College and University during that period are now remembered with deep affection and gratitude. The degree of doctor of engineering was conferred on Sir John A. F. Aspinall. Sir John Aspinall was for years chairman of the faculty of engineering at the University, and the present highly developed condition of the series of departments that now constitute the faculty is very largely due to the powerful influence that he exerted on its behalf. His professional career has seen the development of some highly important methods of modern railway transport.

LONDON.—The following Doctorates have been conferred:—*D.Sc. in Chemistry*: Mr. G. A. R. Kon, an internal student of the Imperial College—Royal College of Science—for a thesis entitled "The Influence of Space Conditions on the Formation of Strained Rings; The Formation and Stability of *spiro*-compounds." *D.Sc. in Cytology*: Mr. J. B. Gatenby, an internal student of University College, for a thesis entitled "The Cytoplasmic Inclusions of the Germ-cells: Part X.—The Gametogenesis of *Saccocirrus*." *D.Sc. in Physics*: Mr. L. C. Martin, an internal student of the Imperial College—Royal College of Science, for a thesis entitled "A Physical Study of Spherical Aberration." *D.Sc. in Physiology*: Miss Gladys A. Hartwell, an internal student of King's College for Women (Household and Social Science Department) and Bedford College, for a thesis entitled "Mammary Secretion." *D.Sc. in Botany*: Mr. W. J. Hodgetts, an external student, for a thesis entitled "A Study of some of the Factors controlling the Periodicity of Freshwater Algæ in Nature," and other papers.

Applications are invited for a Sharpey physiological scholarship at University College. The scholarship is of the value of 200*l.* Applications, with a full statement of the candidates' academic training and a list of their publications, if any, should reach the secretary of the college, Gower Street, W.C.1, not later than June 15.

A DRAPERS' COMPANY'S research scholarship in dyeing and a research scholarship in colour chemistry, tenable for the session 1922-23 at the Huddersfield Technical College, are offered. The value of the first-named scholarship is 100*l.* and remission of fees, and that of the last named not more than 100*l.* and remission of fees. All particulars and forms of application may be had from the secretary of the college.