

Since the foundation of the Institution in 1902 there has been distributed, chiefly by gifts to libraries and to authors, but to a noteworthy extent also by sales, a total of no less than 226,039 volumes of publications of the Institution. During the past

year the publication of 23 volumes has been authorised by the Executive Committee at an aggregate estimated cost of 12,000*l.*, and 18 volumes, with an aggregate of 4068 octavo and 1398 quarto pages have been issued. Twenty additional volumes are now in press.

### Melanesian Witchcraft.

AT a meeting of the Royal Anthropological Institute on Tuesday, May 23, Dr. B. Malinowski read a paper on Melanesian witchcraft. The natives of the Coral Archipelagoes surrounding New Guinea, where Dr. Malinowski carried out his researches, have no idea of natural death or disease. If undisturbed by sorcery, a man would, they believe, live in perpetual good health to an old age, in fact there is no reason why he should ever die.

When a sorcerer wishes to destroy a man, either as an act of personal hate or professionally for a payment, he first administers a small dose of black magic and produces a slight disorder. A spell in which the victim's name is mentioned is chanted over his house or garden, or into some leaves which are buried near his doorstep. The man sickens and is made more susceptible to further evil magic, which is now made stronger by the application of a more dangerous spell, and the pernicious substance must be administered by mouth or else burnt in the victim's hut. At this stage the patient takes all sorts of precautions; his house is guarded by relatives, his food is under control and, last though not least, he engages the services of another professional man—a sorcerer is always also a healer—who tries to undo by magical means all the evil done by his colleague. The sorcerer is most dreaded at night when he prowls round the victim's house, surrounded by night birds, his assistants, and tries to enter the hut and to burn the deadly substance.

If he succeeds, the patient may die, provided the good magic has not proved more effective than the evil. If he fails, the sorcerer may have recourse to the final rite of pointing the bone. A regular witch's cauldron is prepared and boiled somewhere in the jungle, and into its seething contents the sorcerer chants a most deadly spell, uttering the victim's name. Then he dips into the mess a pointed bone, a stingaree spine, or a short wooden dagger. Afterwards he steals to the village and tries to get sight of the victim without being seen himself. Pointing the dagger towards the man he jerks and twists it in the air, muttering the final incantation. The man to whom this is done will invariably die, unless a more effective magic has been used for his protection.

The sorcerer firmly believes in the powers of his black art. When he undertakes professionally to conduct a case, whether of killing or curing, he will carry out the various rites scrupulously, often risking his life in the attempt to kill by magic, for, if caught *in flagrante delicto*, he would be mercilessly speared.

It has to be realised that sorcery is almost invariably used to avenge some real injury or to punish some one who has broken the tribal law. The victim feels the weight of public opinion against him and this enhances greatly his natural fear of magic. It is important also to realise that black magic is generally used in carrying out the decrees of tribal law and usage, and that it is mainly at the disposal of the chief, the man of rank, and the man of wealth. It thus supplies savage society with the wholesome, though undoubtedly unpleasant element of fear, without which no social stability or order can exist in a primitive community. It is always a conservative force, which ranges itself on the side of existing order, authority, law, and custom. It is most unfortunate, therefore, that whenever European civilisation comes in contact with savages, the first thing done is to destroy, or at least undermine, the power of the black magician. It is one of the many cases where a mistaken zeal for giving savages that for which they are not yet ripe results in the disruption of their own social order and in paralysing their own powers, without the substitution of any effective means of control.

The late Dr. Rivers, in opening the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, referred to the value of Dr. Malinowski's investigations in indicating in particular the place taken by sorcery in the social complex as a whole. When examined in this relation, the resemblance which the sorcery of the Trobrianders offers to the sorcery of other peoples as, for example, in the Western Solomon Islands, is merely superficial. Sir James Frazer pointed out the parallelism in the development of the arts and of witchcraft in the Trobrianders, and indicated further that the theory which underlies this system of sorcery is mechanical in that the spirit acts upon, but did not enter into, the body.

### New Buildings of University College, Nottingham.

THE foundation stone of the new buildings of University College, Nottingham, was laid on Wednesday, June 14, by Lord Haldane, in the presence of a large company from all parts of the East Midlands. The site is situated at the highest point of the Highfields estate, being about 2½ miles distant from the centre of the city. The present proposals include the central building, which provides accommodation for the faculties of arts and economics and also for the administrative offices. The library adjoins. There is also provided a block for the departments of chemistry and physics with room for extensions. The departments of biology and geology will be temporarily accommodated in the central building. The departments of engineering, mining, technology, and the evening work of the College will continue to be carried on in the present buildings in Shakespeare Street.

The new buildings at Highfields have been designed on the unit system in such a way that future development of the University is rendered possible. Provision is thus made for the ultimate transference of all departments to the new site. The erection of the new buildings has been made possible by the great generosity of Sir Jesse Boot. About two years ago he gave to the College the sum of 50,000*l.*, of which 20,000*l.* was to be devoted to the endowment of the chair of chemistry and 30,000*l.* to the building fund. He has now added a further sum of 120,000*l.* towards the latter purpose. At the ceremony on June 14, Lord Haldane announced that Sir Jesse Boot had sent a further cheque for 10,000*l.*, and that an anonymous donor had forwarded a cheque for 100,000*l.* in aid of the movement. These two cheques were put by Lord Haldane in the hands of the chairman of the University College. With this

quarter of a million it will be possible to provide the buildings necessary to allow of the removal of the purely academic side of the University College from its present site, and also to provide the administrative accommodation which will be necessary for the proposed University if and when its charter is granted. The University College, by the terms of the draft charter to be presented to the Privy Council, will form the nucleus of the new institution, to be reinforced from time to time by the association of other colleges in the province as they are approved by the Board of Education. Hence it was appropriate for the architect of the new buildings, Mr. Morley Horder, to describe his drawings in the Royal Academy of this year as of the East Midland University.

The buildings will be of sober classical style in the English tradition of Wren. They will be grouped in a range of quadrangles rising from a lake, some twelve acres in extent, with a terraced garden in front. As the railway passenger approaches by the Midland line from Trent, the white Portland elevations of the various buildings will be seen on high ground to the left. Owing to the conformation of the site a view is obtained from the front of the University over the valley of the Trent.

The Highfields Park which surrounds the University buildings affords opportunities for such extensions as the future may demand. Beyond the ample provision thus made, extending to many acres, the large park, by the noble generosity of Sir Jesse Boot, is dedicated to the use of his fellow-citizens. On the southern side of the lake a wide boulevard, containing alternate roads and avenues of trees, affords an approach to the city from the west, and incidentally a means of access to the University buildings. From this boulevard there will open playing-fields, some of which will be allotted to the University. The amenities, therefore, of the city and the University will be combined in a manner which is advantageous to both. The laying out of the boulevard, the lake, and the park will involve a cost of some 200,000*l.*, which again is a gift from Sir Jesse Boot.

The imaginative construction of the whole imposing scheme is peculiarly that of the donor, and his especially is the credit in this respect. There are not many persons who have entered completely into his idea, and it is characteristic of his point of view that he insists that the first part of the buildings to be erected must include the fine terraced garden which shall unite the University buildings with the lake. This garden involves the fine stone retaining walls which are necessary upon the sloping ground. Lord Haldane spoke effectively of the ideal of a civic university, and it thus appears that it will be materialised through a conception which involves, not only the relation of the university to the city, but of the city to the university. Such a conception has formed itself for the first time in the mind of a citizen.

### Rothamsted Experimental Station.

THE Society for Extending the Rothamsted Experiments on Agricultural Science held its annual meeting at the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, on Wednesday, June 14, when some 80 members of the Society and guests were present.

The morning was occupied in the inspection of some of the experimental fields, which were demonstrated by members of the staff. After luncheon the meeting was addressed by Lord Bledisloe, who presided in the absence of the Duke of Devonshire.

Lord Bledisloe described the important function fulfilled by the Society for Extending the Rothamsted Experiments in assisting the station to pursue its investigations in agricultural science. He mentioned that it was hoped with the aid of Government grants to begin the construction of new laboratories at Rothamsted for the study of diseases and pests of agricultural crops, and to make other much-needed additions to the station. As the Government grant is conditional upon the station itself raising a certain sum by private donations, the Society hopes to collect 5376*l.* during the current year for this purpose. Lord Bledisloe concluded by voicing the congratulations of the meeting to the director, Sir John Russell, on the honour of knighthood recently conferred upon him in recognition of his work in agricultural science.

Sir John Russell then gave a brief account of the problems under investigation in the laboratories, after which the Minister of Agriculture, Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen, in a short speech, said that the policy of the Government was to make provision for, and to encourage, agricultural education and research as the safest and best means of helping British agriculture. He added that in this policy he had the support of all shades of agricultural opinion, and referred to the general approval of the recent grant of 1,000,000*l.* for education and research which was made when the Corn Production Act was repealed. Sir Daniel Hall, the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and a former director of Rothamsted, also spoke, and pointed out the great value of the experimental fields to Rothamsted, in that they focussed attention upon problems which had both scientific and practical interest.

Mr. Shepperson of the National Farmers' Union, and Mr. George Dallas of the Workers' Union, also expressed on behalf of their respective organisations their support of the policy outlined by the Minister of Agriculture.

In the afternoon the visitors inspected the laboratories and discussed with the staff some of the investigations in progress. Special attention was given to the work of the entomological and mycological laboratories, which at present is being conducted in unsuitable and overcrowded quarters. It is hoped that the effort of the Society for Extending the Rothamsted Experiments will enable adequate accommodation to be provided for this work in the near future.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE. — Mr. F. C. Bartlett, St. John's College, has been appointed reader in experimental psychology and director of the Psychological Laboratory. Mr. H. A. Cox has been appointed Gurney University lecturer in forestry. Mr. G. S. Carter, Gonville and Caius College, has been elected to a research studentship at Naples and nominated to use the University table there. Honorary degrees are to be conferred on ex-President Taft, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America and upon Mr. H. Stone, University lecturer in forestry.

The following elections and awards are announced: to a Harkness scholarship in geology, H. Hemmings, St. John's College; to Frank Smart prizes in botany and zoology, J. Barker, Trinity College, and C. F. A. Pantin, Christ's College, respectively; to the Wiltshire prize in geology, W. D. West, St. John's College.

ST. ANDREWS. — At a meeting of the University on June 9, a letter was read from Prof. A. S. Butler resigning the chair of natural philosophy as at the end of September. It was agreed to announce the