

this idea applies both to physical and human conditions. Western Europe, with inland seas and intricate structure and relief, provides varied resources, maritime, agricultural, and mineral. Into this region spread the civilisation of the Mediterranean region, and here communities found the physical conditions which enabled them to develop. Physical barriers and relatively small productive areas gave distinctiveness and led eventually to the growth of separate nationalities. These nations became self-governing and, broadly speaking, democratic.

Eastern Europe, on the other hand, is characterised by uniformity of structure and relief, with great belts of similar climatic conditions and natural vegetation extending through it into Asia and so facilitating human migrations and military movements, mainly east and west. From the human as well as the physical point of view this region was for many centuries an extension of Asia and had but a scanty population. The Slav languages became characteristic and the authority of the Czar dominated the greater part of the region. The Asiatic incursions which in earlier centuries swept across the eastern plains were as a rule checked when they reached the belt of change. Here they found varied conditions of life, but different from those to which they had been accustomed. Traditions and names of invading tribes have been preserved, differences of language remain, and not infrequently feelings of hostility and memories of conquest are rife. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for a complete fusion of races in the several regions of the belt. The Asiatic elements still assert themselves: Finns, Ests, Magyars, Bulgars, and Turks stand out, contrasted in one way or another with Swedes, Germans, Slavs, Albanians, and Greeks of European descent. Moreover, two small Nordic groups, Letts and Lithuanians, have preserved their identity from early times and remain distinct from other Nordic people in language and nationality. On the other hand, the occurrence of minerals has led to the partial penetration of Western influences.

Prof. Unstead went on to show the diversity of religion and political conditions in this belt of change. The problem of minorities exists in one form or another throughout the belt, and is perhaps the greatest menace to future peace. The present political units are by no means self-sufficing, and their frontiers are frequently barriers to trade and hindrances to production. Furthermore, the attainment of political freedom has often been accompanied by a check to production, commerce, and prosperity.

University and Educational Intelligence.

ABERDEEN.—Applications are invited for the Blackwell Prize, value 30 guineas, for an essay on "The Sculptured and Inscribed Stones of the North-East and North of Scotland." The essays, bearing a motto and accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the same motto and giving the name and address of the writer, must reach the secretary of the university on or before January 1 next.

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. J. Walton, St. John's College, has been appointed junior demonstrator of botany. Mr. F. A. Potts, Trinity Hall, has been reappointed demonstrator of comparative anatomy. Dr. A. B. Appleton, Downing College, Mr. D. G. Reid, Trinity College, Mr. A. Hopkinson, Emmanuel College, and Mr. V. C. Pennell, Pembroke College, have been reappointed demonstrators in anatomy. Dr. F. Roberts, Clare College, Mr. T. R. Parsons, Sidney Sussex College, have been reappointed demonstrators in physiology. Mr. G. V. Carey, Clare College, has

been appointed educational secretary to the Cambridge University Press.

A. J. Smith, Downing College, has been appointed University Frank Smart Student in Botany. The John Winbolt prize has been awarded to F. E. Smith, Sidney Sussex College.

LEEDS.—Mr. Lascelles Abercrombie, lecturer in poetry at Liverpool University, has been elected by the council of the University professor of English language and literature, in succession to Prof. Gordon, who was recently appointed to the Merton professorship of English literature at Oxford.

LONDON.—It was announced in NATURE of July 29, p. 166, that Mr. H. G. Wells had consented to offer himself as Parliamentary candidate for the University, at the invitation of the executive of the University Labour Party, upon the retirement of Sir Philip Magnus at the end of the present session of Parliament. At a general meeting of the party held on Friday, October 6, Mr. Wells was adopted as Parliamentary candidate as recommended by the executive.

It is announced that Mr. H. M. McCreath, head of the Agricultural Department, Seale-Hayne College, Devon, has been elected principal of the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture, Chelmsford.

A SITE consisting of nearly 20 acres has been presented by Mr. T. R. Ferens at a cost of about 10,000*l.* to the education authorities of Hull for the immediate purpose of providing accommodation for advanced technical departments. It is anticipated that a university college will be developed later on the site.

THE distribution of geographical teaching in the universities of Europe is illustrated in a map which accompanies a paper by Mr. W. L. G. Joerg, in the *Geographical Review* for July, on "Recent Geographical Work in Europe." From this map it appears that more than 120 universities in Europe (excluding Russia and allied Soviet states) have provision for geography. Germany, Switzerland, and France are perhaps the best provided, but Great Britain does not fall far behind. In Balkan lands, geography is fairly well represented in Bulgaria and Yugo Slavia; Rumania has four universities offering geography, while Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia also have centres of instruction. On the whole, the new or reconstructed states of Europe show every indication of realising the importance of the subject. The only states in Europe which would appear to offer no university geography are Latvia, Lithuania, Albania, Greece, and Ireland.

DURHAM University has recently published a calendar for the year 1922-23 (price 3*s.* 6*d.* net), a useful compilation which serves as a guide to affairs in the University. The first half of the volume deals with the University as a whole; its officers, the regulations affecting conduct and degrees, as well as the subjects required for the latter and for various diplomas are given. A special section is devoted to the fellowships, scholarships, and prizes which are awarded by the University. The remainder of the calendar is divided into three sections referring to the Durham colleges, the College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Armstrong College, respectively. It should be noted that up to and including September 1923 the matriculation examination will continue to be held in Durham and Newcastle; after October 1923 the matriculation examination (Newcastle Division) will cease to be held. The new regulations for matriculation in the Newcastle colleges, which will then come into force, are given in detail. In a concluding section of the volume there is an alphabetical list of members of Durham University.