

are names which will always live, not only in the history of the Garden but also in that of botany. In more recent times, Bayley Balfour and Sydney Vines have maintained the great traditions of the Garden so that, in despite of difficult times which have occurred in the past and may recur in the future, the permanence and usefulness of the Garden are assured.

The chairman of the curators, Sir Herbert Warren, whose knowledge of the Garden extends over fifty years, in the course of a delightful speech in which he referred to the love which the Garden has inspired in the minds of Oxford men, omitted to mention the great and beneficent part which he himself has played in steering the Garden through the recent difficult years when costs have been so high and the financial resources of the University have been so strained. In helping the Garden to meet the financial difficulties inherent in these times, the University has shown wisdom and understanding that, it may be hoped, will touch the imagination of a generous benefactor and make the Garden secure for all time, not only as a place of botanical study, and as a repository of herbaria of historic and present importance, but also as a quiet sanctuary wherein men who love plants may study and admire them.

Prof. Seward, who in the absence of Lord Ullswater spoke on the subject of gardens as aids to botanical teaching and research, congratulated the University on the fact that gardens and laboratories, library and herbarium, were all assembled in one site. He referred to the generosity of Mr. Reginald Cory and other benefactors in aiding the Cambridge Botanical Garden to maintain itself, and expressed the belief that the value of the work done at Oxford and the need for assistance required only to be known to ensure the supplementing of existing resources by private benefaction.

After the formal ceremony the visitors, who numbered some 500, inspected the gardens and laboratories, admiring particularly the famous tank houses wherein the blue water-lilies (*Nymphaea zanzibavensis*, *N. gigantea*, and *N. stellata*) thrive with amazing floriferousness in company with many other *Nymphaeas*, *Nelumbium speciosum*, the white rose-tipped Egyptian Bean of Pythagoras, *Cyperus papyrus*, graceful and historical and the source of the papyrus of antiquity, and a large assemblage of aquatic and marsh plants, all of which are of interest and collectively give a memorable impression of luxuriance which few parts of the tropics can rival.

After tea in the gardens the ceremony terminated, the departing guests averring that few among them had realised so clearly as they now did the vital part which botanic gardens play and have played in the social life of civilised communities.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

EDINBURGH.—Prof. F. Gowland Hopkins, Cameron prizeman for 1922, delivered two lectures in the University on June 27 and 28 respectively, on the present position of the vitamin question. The Cameron prize, which was founded in 1878, is awarded annually to an investigator who in the course of the five years immediately preceding has made an important addition to practical therapeutics.

SHEFFIELD.—Dr. P. J. Daniell has been appointed to the Town Trust chair of mathematics.

AN Edward K. Dunham lectureship has been established at Harvard University in memory of the late Prof. E. K. Dunham, for many years professor of pathology in the Bellevue and University Medical

College of New York City (*Science*, June 15). According to the terms of the gift, which is made by Prof. Dunham's widow, the lectures are to be given annually by eminent investigators and teachers in medical science or one of the contributory basic sciences, and there is no restriction as to the nationality of the lecturer. It is hoped that the foundation may "serve to bind closer the bonds of friendship and understanding between students and investigators in this and foreign countries."

AN outline of President Harding's plan for reorganising the educational activities of the Federal Government was given by the United States Commissioner of Education at the recent annual meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association. The plan is a part of a comprehensive scheme, foreshadowed by the President in his first message to Congress and presented to the Senate in February, for a reorganisation of all the executive departments, including the establishment of a department to promote citizenship and general welfare. The educational work now carried on by some thirty separate agencies, belonging to six of the principal departments and several independent establishments, is to be included along with certain other services, the whole costing at present 700 million dollars a year, in a new Department of Education and Welfare comprising education, public health, social service, and veteran relief. The Division of Education, which will be under a permanent assistant secretary, will take over, *inter alia*, in addition to the Bureau of Education and the Board for Vocational Education, the Smithsonian Institution, including the National Museum and Art Gallery, the International Exchange Service, the Bureau of American Ethnology, the Astrophysical Observatory, the National Zoological Park, and the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, and will create and direct an entirely new bureau for promoting physical education. The scheme is to come before Congress in December.

THE work of the University of London during the year 1922-23, measured by the usual statistical standards, shows a notable expansion. The Principal Officer, while careful to point out that the great mass of the university's continuous achievement is the expression of imponderable forces, directs attention to figures 75-200 per cent. higher than the corresponding figures for 1913-14, and points out that "we have passed well beyond the wash of what was commonly regarded as the abnormal demand for educational facilities that followed the great deliverance of 1918"; the figures are as follows: admissions (8498), candidates for degrees (3191), candidates for matriculation and registration (19,985), and other examinations (7663), and internal students (8881). There has been a noticeable decrease in the percentage of successful to total candidates from 53 in 1913-14 to 32 in 1922-23. The "growth of ignorance" among the younger generation to which Prof. John Burnet directed attention recently in the Romanes lecture is apparently not confined to Scotland. Indicative of the ever-growing specialisation of the subjects of the curricula is the increase in the number of Boards of Studies from 27 with 374 members in 1900 to 42 with 1051 members. That the senate is alive to the dangers incidental to this specialisation and resolved to guard against them is shown by its creation of a Board of Studies in "the principles, history, and method of science," designed to embrace not only the natural and mathematical sciences, but also logic, ethics, history, pedagogy, economics, linguistics, archæology, scholarship, and medicine.