

### University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The University of Cambridge Commissioners have authorised and directed the University to limit to December 31, 1925, the tenure of all officers appointed after the present date, except where the person before election shall have undertaken to hold the appointment subject to conditions that may be made or approved by the Commissioners.

An offer of 500*l.* has been made to the University by Mrs. Pinsent, Sir Francis and the Hon. Lady Darwin for the purpose of promoting research, by studentship or otherwise, into any problem which may have a bearing on mental defects, diseases, or disorders. In the letter in which the offer is made, the donors express the belief that the racial and social problems involved by the existence of such large numbers of mentally incapable persons in the community are of great national importance, and that their solution may have far-reaching effects. The gift is made in memory of Hume C. Pinsent, scholar and fellow of St. John's College; Erasmus Darwin, exhibitor of Trinity College; David Hume Pinsent, scholar of Trinity College; and of Richard Parker Pinsent, exhibitor of Balliol College, Oxford.

Mr. T. T. Barnard, research student of King's College, has been elected to the Anthony Wilkin studentship for research in ethnology and archæology in Southern Sumatra; Mr. R. A. Webb, research student of Gonville and Caius College, to the Charles Abercrombie Smith research studentship at Peterhouse.

The Army Council has asked the University if it would be willing to undertake the examination qualifying Royal Engineer officers to receive engineer pay. In view of the prominent part which the Department of Engineering takes in the training of Royal Engineer officers, the Special Board of Engineering Studies recommends that the University should undertake this work.

LONDON.—Dr. A. W. Porter has been appointed as from August 1, 1923, to the University chair of physics tenable at University College. Prof. Porter has been a lecturer and assistant professor at University College, and, since 1913, University reader in thermodynamics.

Mr. E. C. Rhodes has been appointed to the University readership in statistics tenable at the London School of Economics. From 1919 to 1922 Mr. Rhodes was assistant in the Department of Applied Statistics at University College, London, and since 1922 has been lecturer in charge of the Department of Mathematics at University College, Leicester.

The following Doctorates have been conferred: *D.Sc. in Zoology*, Rev. S. G. Brade-Birks (South-Eastern Agricultural College), for a thesis entitled "Notes on Myriapoda; the Economic Status of Diplopoda and Chilopoda and their Allies." *D.Sc. in Chemistry*, Mr. Sri Krishna (King's College), for a thesis entitled "Synthesis of Derivatives of Thianthren and Phenothioxin."

THE annual meeting of the Association of Technical Institutions will be held at the Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, London, E.C., on February 29-March 1, under the presidency of Lord Emmott. Papers will be read during the meetings by Mr. H. Dempster Smith (Manchester) on "Engineering Economics"; Principal C. Coles (Cardiff) on "Non-Resident Students in Technical Institutions"; and Principal A. R. Sage (London) on "Technical Training for the Building Trades."

### Early Science at the Royal Society.

February 1, 1676. Read a letter from Mr. Leewenhoeck relative to observations with his microscope.

February 3, 1663. Mr. Hooke's account both of the weight of the air in a large receiver 119 English wine pints, and of the proportion of the weight of the air to the weight of the water, was read. It was ordered that whoever make report of an experiment but once made, should repeat it, for the sake of more accuracy and certainty.

1669. Mr. Hooke produced a contrivance of his to try whether a mechanical muscle could be made by art, performing without labour the same office which a natural muscle doth in animals.

1675. The reading of Mr. Newton's observations on colours was continued.

1685. Dr. Papin for the entertainment of the Florentine envoy showed again the experiment of water boiling *in vacuo*.

February 4, 1662. Dr. Charleton moved, that the eyes of some animals might be frozen, in order to see their structure the better. The operator was ordered to freeze some cats' eyes against the next meeting, if the frost should hold.

1668. Two experiments with balls were made to verify Dr. Wren's laws of motion.

1674. Mr. Hooke declared that he had made some discovery of the structure of a muscle by inspection with a microscope.

February 5, 1661. Dr. Wren was desired to think of an easy way for an universal measure, different from that of a pendulum.

1673. An experiment was made with Mr. Lister's styptic liquor upon a dog, by opening one of his crural arteries lengthwise without cutting it asunder.

1679. The method of making experiments was further discoursed of; that they should be made in order to prove a theory propounded: but Sir William Petty was of opinion, that they would be more faithfully made and delivered if they were not made to help out a theory because that might prepossess and bias the experimenter.

February 6, 1660. A committee was appointed for considering of proper questions to be inquired of in the remotest parts of the world.

1666. A letter was read from the Duke of Brunswick to Mr. Oldenburg containing both his desire to be made acquainted with the experiments made, and his offer of communicating in return what should come to his knowledge in Germany and out of Italy.

1667. Mr. Oldenburg read a letter sent by John Denis, M.D., professor of philosophy and mathematics at Paris, relating to a late cure of an inveterate phrensy by the transfusion of blood.

1678. Mr. Henshaw mentioned M. du Pont's papers, which were in the hands of Mr. Evelyn, about the way of setting in new teeth artificially.

February 7, 1677. A discussion concerning mildews.

February 8, 1664. Mr. Bagnall produced a bag-full of *lapis amiantus* or *asbestos*. He was desired to procure more of it, in order to the making of paper.

1687. Ordered that money be laid out for erecting a pole in the quadrangle of Gresham College for management of a telescope.

February 9, 1670. Mr. Hooke being asked whether the air-vessel for a man to sit in was yet ready, answered that it was, and that he intended to make some experiments in it.

1686. Ordered that a committee who will voluntarily meet once a week in Dr. Pope's lodgings be allowed a fire and candle at the Society's charge.