

on Miss G. M. Broughton, of the London School of Economics, for a thesis entitled "Labour in Indian Industries."

THE Council of the University of Paris has decided to confer honorary doctorates on the following men of science: in the faculty of science, Prof. H. A. Lorentz (Leyden) and Dr. C. D. Walcott (Washington); in the faculty of medicine, Prof. W. Wright (London) and Prof. Ramón y Cajal (Madrid).

DR. J. KENNER, senior lecturer in chemistry at the University of Sheffield, has been appointed professor of organic chemistry at the University of Sydney. During the War, Dr. Kenner was in charge of the big gas station at Calais. During the fourteen years he has been at the University of Sheffield, he has carried out numerous researches in organic chemistry.

THE Baghdad correspondent of the *Times* records that on March 15, the anniversary of the declaration of Arab independence in the Hejaz, King Feisal opened the first block of the new Baghdad University of Al al Bait, and laid the foundation stone for the central administrative building.

THE results of a noteworthy experiment in the technical training of apprentices in France are recorded in the November issue of the Bulletin of the Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale. Three years ago the founders, Bonvillain and Ronceray, with the support of the Union of Moulders, instituted a course for the technical training of their first-year apprentices which proved so successful that courses for the second- and third-year men were added. Last year a competition was held in which each apprentice was required to produce a casting and to answer verbal questions addressed to him by judges appointed by the Union of Moulders. The results of the competition are given in the Bulletin along with photographs of the prize-winners and their castings. Some of these are remarkable as showing what a boy of fifteen properly trained for a year or eighteen months can do. The Union of Moulders has also started Sunday morning courses for foremen, and an evening technical school for more advanced work opened on January 7 at a fee of 500 francs per session.

THE International Federation of University Women has published in its "Occasional Paper No. 3, March 1924" a preliminary programme of its third conference, to be held at Christiania on July 28 and four following days. Among the subjects proposed for discussion is the training and experience needed for work in politics, industry, commerce, international finance, the handling of raw materials, etc. On this subject Prof. Caroline Spurgeon, of Bedford College, president of the Federation, has given a lead in an interesting article published in the same paper. She points out that whereas women are every day coming more and more into positions of responsibility and power, their education and experience are not progressing at the same rate. Some of the best-trained and best-equipped women ought, she thinks, to turn their attention to commerce and finance; for the forces dominating and moulding the world are the national struggles for control of markets and raw materials; and until a proportion of the best-educated women turn their attention to these matters, women cannot expect to have any real weight in the councils of the world. The American Association of University women is, it appears, undertaking an investigation of what women are already doing in these fields of work, and Prof. Spurgeon looks to the Christiania conference to prepare the way for "a campaign to open up to women throughout the world careers in commerce, industry, and finance."

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Early Science at the Royal Society.

April 6, 1664. Dr. Charleton remarked, that there were some knowing persons, who would maintain, that images are erected in the retina; and that, notwithstanding the diversity of mediums in the eye, there was made but one single refraction. It being urged by him, that those persons offered to prove their assertions by experiments, he undertook to engage them to do so.—A letter of Col. Long to Sir Robert Moray was read, acknowledging his philosophical debts to the society, and giving account of elms becoming great trees from chips having some bark upon them; as also from boughs chopt on each side, and put into a nursery of good ground, laying them along in trenches. This was ordered to be communicated to Mr. Evelyn.

1671. Mr. Henshaw read part of his translation of Signor Montanari's paper concerning the glass drops: and as this discourse was long and deserved consideration, fifty copies of it were ordered to be printed, that it might be the more conveniently distributed amongst the members for perusal. [Early instance of advance proofs.]

April 7, 1686. A note of Dr. Papin concerning the firing of gun-powder *in vacuo* was read.

1687. A letter of Mr. Leewenhoeck, dated at Delft, concerning the structure of the teeth, was produced and ordered to be translated.

April 8, 1663. Mr. Boyle brought in a written account of potatoes from his gardiner, and is as follows: I have, according to your desire, sent a box of potatoes. My care hath been to make choice of such, that are fit to be set without cutting; for many, that have not small ones enough, are constrained to cut the great ones: but I do not approve of that husbandry, neither do I make use of it, because when they are cut, the worms do feed on them; and so devouring the substance, the branch groweth the weaker, and the root small. I could speak in praise of the root, what a good and profitable thing it is, and might be to a commonwealth. . . .

1669. That Dr. Merret be conferred with against the next meeting concerning Thomas Willisel, the botanic traveller, to testify what he knows of his abilities in collecting plants and other natural curiosities; and that Willisel be summoned to attend to receive resolutions and orders.

1685. A paper was communicated from the Philosophical Society at Oxford, occasioned by a discourse there, concerning the advantage, which those men, who want sight, may have as to memory.

April 11, 1666. Sir Robert Moray presented the society with the stones taken out of the Lord Belcarre's heart, in a silver box, together with a written account of the dissection of his body, attested by a physician and chirurgeon in Scotland, with this condition only, that in case the lady Belcarres, the deceased lord's mother should send for it, it might not be denied her.

1667. Dr. Wilkins renewed his motion that the physicians of the Society would employ their interest with those of their profession, who had staid in London, to obtain from them, their observations of the late plague in 1665.

April 12, 1665. The operator was appointed to try again the feeding of spiders upon one another, by shutting two or more of them up in a close glass. As also to put a house-spider among a good number of ants, and to see, whether it would be torn and eaten by them; Dr. Wilkins having related, that such a house-spider being put with a multitude of ants upon a barrel-head, the ants first ran away from the spider, but then returned, and tore it in pieces.