

technology course at the University of Birmingham, has been awarded to Mr. Geoffrey Cotton.

It is recorded by the *Times* correspondent at Brussels that the foundation-stone of the new buildings of the University of Brussels was laid on November 20 by Prince Leopold. The erection of the new premises has been made possible by financial assistance, amounting to nearly 20,000,000 francs (about 208,300l.), given by the Commission for Relief in Belgium and the Educational Foundation, as a result of the good offices of Mr. Hoover. The ceremony coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Polytechnic School, and was attended by a number of delegates from British and American universities and technical institutions.

THE Board of Education has issued the following list of successful candidates (in order of merit in each group) to whom awards have been made in the competition for Royal Scholarships and Free Studentships (Science), 1924. GROUP A. ENGINEERING. Number of competitors, 102. *Royal Scholarships*, W. G. Crocker, A. A. Butler, A. W. Morley, J. Donegan, E. W. Pakenham, R. A. Yeo, G. W. Mills, W. J. Offord; *Free Studentships*, R. S. Bone, A. S. Crouch. GROUP B. PHYSICS. Number of competitors, 42. *Royal Scholarships*, F. Gill, E. T. D. Offer, D. T. Jones, W. H. Aldous, A. H. Nagle; *Free Studentships*, L. F. Stanley, W. D. Wright, W. Singleton. GROUP C. CHEMISTRY. Number of competitors, 29. *Royal Scholarships*, J. Cantor, A. O. Ball, J. D. Johnson, F. Witt, M. Kamenetsky, P. L. Jones; *Free Studentships*, E. Tanner, J. Anderson, T. Mitchell. GROUP D. BIOLOGY. One candidate. No award. GROUP E. GEOLOGY. Number of competitors, 4. *Royal Scholarship*, F. E. Eames.

THE Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, in the state of New York, celebrated last month the hundredth anniversary of its foundation, and Prof. Ray Palmer Baker has contributed to *The Scientific Monthly* an account of some of its services to the cause of science. The first head of this "the oldest institution devoted to science in any English-speaking country" was Amos Eaton, an original genius whose eminence as a naturalist—he has been called the "father of American geology"—was surpassed by his even greater renown as an educator. "He ranged over many subjects—botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, geology, and mineralogy; and in every field he fired the imagination of students who outreached him in knowledge and attainment." He was the first to introduce field work and laboratory practice into the American college, and was the founder of the first popular museum of natural history. His were the first attempts to adapt the results of research to the needs of agriculture. Among other distinguished Rensselaer men were: Ebenezer Emmons, from whose monographs originated the bulletins of the Department of Agriculture; Asa Fitch, the first official entomologist in America, known as the "father of economic entomology"; De Volson Wood, who inaugurated the system of independent colleges for the pure and applied sciences; Henry Augustus Rowland, first professor of physics in Johns Hopkins University, than whom there is no more significant figure in the history of physics in the United States; James Curtis Booth, the most distinguished chemist of his day, who organised at Philadelphia a laboratory on the lines of a miniature factory, the first of its kind; and James Hall, "the founder of American stratigraphy and invertebrate palaeontology."

Early Science at the Royal Society.

November 30, 1663. This being the anniversary election-day of a new Council for the year ensuing, the Society met in a solemn manner. The Society proceeded, according to their charter, to the election of the Council and Officers for the year ensuing, observing the orders prescribed for that purpose in their statutes, there being present fifty-seven or fifty-eight fellows.

December 2, 1663. Mr. Boyle moved, that Mr. Povey, Mr. Hoskyns, and others, who could, might bring in their collections of observations concerning springs.

1669. Mr. Hooke produced a picture printed after the expeditious manner of Dr. Wren, who having covered a very thin brass-plate with etching varnish, caused it to be etched upon by a hand careful not to close any letter, in which work the aqua fortis must be so strong, as to corrode the plate quite through: which done, the plate is to be turned and laid upon another thick plate covered all over with printer's ink, to be passed, after the usual manner, through the rolling press.

December 3, 1662. Dr. Power's paper of subterraneous experiments, and observations made of the damps of coal-mines, was read, and registered.

1674. It was resolved, that every member of the present council shall provide an experimental discourse for the Society to be made at some one public meeting within the year, either by himself or some other member of the Society; or to pay forty shillings.

December 4, 1666. Sir Robert Moray proposed, that the council would take into consideration, how the experiments at the public meeting of the society might be best carried on; whether by a continued series of experiments, taking in collateral ones, as they were offered, or by going on in that promiscuous way, which had hitherto obtained.—The earl of Northampton and the lord bishop of Exeter were desired to speak to the duke of Buckingham, that he would accommodate the society with some rooms in York-house for their meetings.

1672. Mr. Oldenburg produced and read a letter from Mr. Lister concerning veins and other curious observables in plants, and particularly of the liableness of all vegetable juices to be frozen, except the milky one. It was ordered to be entered in the Letter-book.

1673. There was present at this meeting the abbé D'Angeau, brother to the marquis of that name, who had attended her royal highness the duchess of York from Paris to London.

December 5, 1667. Mr. Oldenburg produced a great packet of letters and other papers sent to him by Mr. Hevelius. To which were added several relations of other particulars communicated by some learned men at Dantzick, of their own accord, concerning trials made of injecting liquors into human veins, an odd birth of twins, and a suggestion of new materials for telescopic glasses, etc. Of these only that on the trials of injection was read at this meeting. [Oldenburg records that upon hearing the account, a certain physician then present, to Oldenburg's "great grief," was so precipitate as to denounce it. I could not (he says) but take him afterwards aside, and represent to him how he would resent it, if he should communicate upon his own knowledge an unusual experiment to the curious at Dantzick, and they in public brand it with the mark of falsehood: that such expressions in so public a place and in so mixed an assembly would certainly prove very destructive to all philosophical commerce, if the curious abroad should be once informed, how their symbols were received at the Royal Society.]