

FOLLOWING closely on the announcement of a gift by Mr. G. Eastman of about 3,000,000*l.* for educational purposes, which was referred to in this column last week, came a message from the New York correspondent of the *Times* announcing a further munificent gift to American education. It is stated that Mr. James B. Duke, who is connected with the tobacco and water-power industries, has created a trust fund of about 8,000,000*l.* for establishing a university in North Carolina which will bear his name. Should Trinity College at Durham in that State agree to change its name to Duke University, the trustees of the fund are authorised to expend 1,200,000*l.* in expanding and extending it, otherwise this sum will be used to start immediately the building of the new university. The trust provides that 20 per cent. of the income from the capital shall be withheld until an additional 8,000,000*l.* has been contributed from other sources. Other educational institutions, churches, hospitals, etc., in North and South Carolina will also benefit under the trust.

A PAMPHLET has been issued by the London County Council containing the lectures for teachers which have been arranged for the coming year. Some of the courses are repetitions of those given during the past term and announced in the handbook of lectures issued last August (see *NATURE*, August 30, p. 334). New courses include a series on some of the public services of London, each lecture of which is to be delivered by an authority. Among the lecturers are Mr. T. Hardie, of the Gas Light and Coke Co., on the manufacture and distribution of gas; Sir Alexander Houston, of the Metropolitan Water Board, on pure water supply; Mr. J. H. Rider, on electricity supply. Special single lectures will also be given by Mr. W. H. Barker and Prof. P. M. Roxby on problems of tropical Africa and the political geography of the Far East respectively, while Dr. Cyril Burt is to deliver two courses of five lectures each on sub- and super-normal children. Particulars of the lectures can be obtained from the County Hall, Westminster Bridge, London, S.E.1.

At the annual meeting on November 20 of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the president and treasurer presented reports, and a brief statement has been printed in *Science*. From this account it appears that the assets of the Corporation on October 1, 1923, were about 26,700,000*l.*; this sum constitutes two trusts for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding among the people of the United States and in Canada and other British Dominions respectively. During the past year about 2,600,000*l.* was paid out from the former trust and about 18,000*l.* from the latter. Noteworthy grants (approximately in pounds sterling) made during the year were as follows: Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh, 3,265,000*l.* (the largest single grant made in the history of the Corporation); National Research Council and National Academy of Sciences, 1,000,000*l.*; educational institutions in Eastern Canada, 600,000*l.*; Institute of Economics, 330,000*l.*; Food Research Institute (Stanford University, California), 141,000*l.*; Johns Hopkins Medical School, 400,000*l.*; New York Academy of Medicine, 200,000*l.*; American Library Association, 37,000*l.*; Harvard University (for training personnel for museum service), 20,000*l.*; Institute of International Education, 36,000*l.*; Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, 22,000*l.*; University of California (for the study of pyorrhea), 17,000*l.*; Union University (Albany Medical College), 10,000*l.*; various agencies for insulin research, 9000*l.*

### Early Science at the Royal Society.

**December 20, 1677.** Mr. Oliver Hill read a written discourse of his, about the method which the Society ought to take in their proceedings, much different from what they then followed.

**December 21, 1663.** It was ordered that Dr. Merret and Dr. Whistler inquire of some members of the College of Physicians concerning the form of the warrant for bodies to be demanded from the sheriff of London for dissection, and make report thereof.

**1664.** There were read three several accounts of the comet lately seen, one by Sir Robert Moray, as he observed it December 17 at Whitehall; another sent from Portsmouth, as it was seen by the earl of Sandwich on board of the London at Spithead; a third sent from Ireland, as it was seen at Dublin by Mr. Kearney and another gentleman severally.

**1671.** Mr. Isaac Newton, professor of mathematics in the university of Cambridge, was proposed candidate by the lord bishop of Salisbury.

**December 22, 1686.** A paper of Dr. Papin about shooting a spherical bullet by exhausting the air out of the barrel was read, and the experiment shown: but by reason of the night the fall of the bullet could not be seen, and therefore the experiment was ordered to be made some other time [Earl of Carbery, president].—Mr. Hooke read his discourse concerning shells, etc., wherein he gave several material instances to prove, that there have been very great changes in the earth's surface, as of rows of oyster shells found in a cliff in the Alps, sea-sand and shells at a great depth in St. James's fields, and the like shells observed by himself at a great height from the sea, in a cliff in the Isle of Wight.

**December 23, 1663.** Occasion being given to discourse of tormenting a person with the sympathy-powder, Dr. Wren related, that in the house of a kinsman of his, the experiment had been tried by him upon a servant, who had grievously cut her finger; and a rag rubbed upon the wound being dressed with calcined vitriol, and put into the maid's bosom, her finger within a short time was cured. Whereupon he had taken the rag from her and heated it upon the fire, whilst the maid was sweeping the next chamber; who, upon a sudden, flung away the broom, and cried out for the pain in her finger; which being looked to was found very fiery: upon which they cooled the rag again, and dressed as formerly, and within a day or two the finger was intirely cured. Mr. Boyle undertook to try this experiment upon a dog.

**December 24, 1662.** Mr. Charles Howard was proposed candidate by Col. Tuke, and was presently chosen; his desire being to be rather admitted by scrutiny, than by the privilege of his birth.—Sir Robert Moray and Mr. Bruce made several relations of accidents which had happened in coal-mines; and were desired to give them in writing.

**December 27, 1666.** It was ordered, that the operator Richard Shortgrave, do for the future bring no bill of work done for the society without some avoucher, who shall be a curator of the respective experiments, about which he shall have been employed: and that without such avoucher, no account of the said operator shall pass in council: with which order he, being called was made acquainted. [This "operator" would appear to have acted as such for ten years, since at the expiration of that period, we read that it was ordered that "the apothecary's bill for the last sickness of the late Mr. Shortgrave be paid by the treasurer, his widow having first delivered up all the instruments, utensils, etc., belonging to the Society."]