

University and Educational Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM.—The annual meeting of the Court of Governors was held on February 26. The report of the Principal (Mr. C. Grant Robertson), which was presented to the meeting, shows that during the last session the number of students diminished slightly as compared with the number for the preceding session. The total, however, is still 50 per cent. higher than in the year before the War. An encouraging fact is the increase in the proportion both of full-time degree students and of post-graduate students.

New buildings are to be erected at Edgbaston for the Petroleum Mining Department, and it is hoped that they will be ready for occupation by October next. The transfer of this department will give room for the expansion of the Department of Coal Mining. An effort is being made to provide further buildings, which are urgently needed, for an extension of the Department of Chemistry and for the removal of the Biological Departments to Edgbaston; but the great increase in the cost of building is a very serious obstacle to be overcome.

Two important events of the year have been the creation of a chair of law (of which Mr. C. E. Smalley-Baker is the first occupant) and the establishment of a readership in geography.

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. J. H. Jeans has been appointed Rouse Ball lecturer in mathematics for the present academic year.

LONDON.—Mr. J. H. Dible has been appointed to the University chair of pathology tenable at the London School of Medicine for Women. Prof. Dible studied at the University of Glasgow. In 1919 he was appointed lecturer in pathology in the University of Manchester and assistant pathologist to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and in 1921 lecturer in bacteriology and senior assistant in the Department, carrying out work both for the Ministry of Health and for public bodies and hospitals in Manchester and adjacent towns.

The title of reader in economics in the University has been conferred on Dr. Hugh Dalton, in respect of the part-time appointment which he will hold at the London School of Economics from August 1, on his resignation of the Sir Ernest Cassel readership in commerce. The title of emeritus professor of hygiene in the University has been conferred on Prof. H. R. Kenwood, who held the Chadwick chair of hygiene at University College from 1904 to 1924, and the title of emeritus professor of medicine at University College on Sir John Rose Bradford, who occupied at that College the chair of *materia medica*, pharmacology, and therapeutics from 1895 to 1903, and the chair of medicine and clinical medicine from 1899 to 1907.

The School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has been admitted as a School of the University in the Faculty of Medicine (in pharmacy only) for a period of five years as from January 1 last.

The following Doctorates have been awarded:—*D.Sc. (Biochemistry)*: Mr. Robert Robison (Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine), for a thesis entitled "Hexosephosphoric Esters and their Physiological Functions"; *D.Sc. (Chemistry)*: Mr. G. R. Clemo, for a thesis entitled "Strychnine and Brucine," and other papers; *D.Sc. (Physics)*: Mr. Frederick Simeon, for a thesis entitled "1. The Carbon Arc Spectrum in the Extreme Ultra-Violet; 2. Note on the Striking Potential necessary to produce a Persistent Arc in Vacuum," and other papers; *Ph.D. (Science)*—Mr. L. Horton (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for a thesis entitled "The Effect of the Alteration of the Carbon Tetrahedral Angle upon the Ease of Formation

of Heterocyclic Rings"; Mr. A. B. Manning (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for a thesis entitled "Researches on Gelatin"; Mr. E. G. Richardson (East London College) for a thesis entitled "Aeolian Tones, Vibrations excited by Fluid Motion"; Mr. J. W. Baker (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for a thesis entitled "The Formation and Stability of Compounds containing Associated Alicyclic Rings (highly strained Rings)"; Mr. I. Cohen (Middlesex Hospital) for a thesis entitled "Observations on Variations in Blood and Urinary Diastase, with special reference to Meals and Starvation"; Mr. E. C. Dodds (Middlesex Hospital) for a thesis entitled "Observations on the Body Diastase," and other papers; Mr. W. Russ (University College) for a thesis entitled "1. The Phosphate Deposits of Abeokuta Province. 2. The Riebeckite Rocks of Northern Nigeria"; Mr. E. R. Trotman (University College, Nottingham) for a thesis entitled "The Preparation of Quaternary Hydrocarbons."

Prof. E. Barclay-Smith, professor of anatomy since 1915, and Prof. O. W. Richardson, appointed Wheatstone professor of physics in 1913 and relinquishing that appointment in 1924 on appointment as one of the Yarrow research professors of the Royal Society, have been appointed fellows of King's College.

A CONVERSAZIONE will be held at the Chelsea Polytechnic, Manresa Road, London, S.W.3, on March 13. The laboratories and workshops will be open for inspection, 6.30-10.30 P.M.

APPLICATIONS are invited for a research studentship in tropical medicine in connexion with the government of the Federated Malay States. The annual value of the studentship is 700*l.* Particulars of the post, and forms of application, are obtainable from the Private Secretary (Appointments), Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.1.

APPLICATIONS are invited by the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee for the position of instructor in dairy and poultry husbandry. Special knowledge of poultry keeping on the farm, and dairy farming (including clean milk production), and good technical qualifications are expected from candidates. Application forms (returnable by March 16 at latest) can be obtained from the Director of Agriculture, 5 Pembroke Terrace, Cardiff.

THE work of research has received a noteworthy and welcome stimulus at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. An anonymous gift of 12,000*l.* enabled the Council to establish a Research Endowment Fund in 1923, and the Committee which was appointed to administer the fund has published its first annual report. The Committee records its intention to utilise the proceeds to help members of the College and others with their researches by providing temporary or partial relief from teaching or by arranging for assistance, and by defraying the cost of books, apparatus, travelling and other expenses: thus to supplement the resources already in operation and not to supersede the provision available for the training of post-graduates. These considerations have guided the Committee in allocating grants during the first year. The Committee has also been able to arrange for a grant being given by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. for a special research; and intimates a desire to advise or to co-operate with industrial firms and corporations desiring investigations in any particular direction. The opportunity has been taken to give a list of papers which have been published by members of the College staff during the year, and from this, although it is not exhaustive,

it is evident that all departments are actively engaged in research.

LORD EMMOTT presided at an important meeting held in the Regent Street Polytechnic, London, on Friday, February 27, when the question of an inquiry into the relationship of technical education to other forms of education and to industry and commerce was discussed. The case for the inquiry was presented by Lord Emmott and Mr. J. Wickham Murray (Joint Committee of the Three Technical and Art Associations). Their speeches indicated that, although technical education forms the contact-point between education and industry, its place in the national system of education is undefined. Since, in any area, the technical institute draws its pupils from all other types of school, it is essential—if waste and overlapping are to be prevented—that its relationship to those other schools should be clearly understood. Further, since technical education (including applied art) is the contact-point with industry, it is very necessary that more definite relationships be established if education is successfully to be linked to the world's work. Educationists and industrialists seem more than ever to be sharply critical of each other's aims and methods, but no comprehensive attempt has been made towards sane and tolerant discussion of mutual problems. It is now proposed to bring together not only primary, secondary, technical, and university teachers, but also employers, representative industrial and commercial bodies, and learned institutions. Among the bodies represented at the meeting were the British Association, the Federation of British Industries, professional engineering bodies, teachers' associations, Institutes of Chemistry and Physics, and the British Science Guild. The meeting finally resolved that the inquiry was desirable, and that the bodies represented be asked to appoint representatives to a committee whose work will be the preparation of the ground which the inquiry will cover.

THE Parliamentary Grant (ordinary) for universities and university colleges in the British Isles, which was increased in 1921 from 1,000,000*l.* to 1,500,000*l.* (including 110,000*l.* for Irish universities), did not escape the attention of the Geddes Economy Committee. For each of the two succeeding years it was (for Great Britain only) 1,169,000*l.*, and for 1924–25 it is 1,122,570*l.*, excluding the new grants (amounting now to 120,000*l.*) for Oxford and Cambridge. Last November a deputation from all the universities of Great Britain, except Oxford and Cambridge, headed by Sir Donald MacAlister, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge the raising of the grant to 1,500,000*l.* A letter on this subject from Mr. Churchill to Lord Balfour, who introduced the deputation, was published in the *Times* of March 2. After reciting the salient points of the case presented by the deputation, which was very sympathetically received, the letter announces the stabilisation of the grant for five years at 1,380,000*l.* (excluding provision for Oxford and Cambridge). For this relief the universities will, undoubtedly, echo the expression of thanks conveyed in Lord Balfour's reply, and if their gratification is tempered by regret that Mr. Churchill has so firmly required them to forgo the expectation of any further increase for at least five years, they cannot fail to recognise that even this condition carries with it compensations, among which may be reckoned the greater precision and therefore effectiveness with which they will be able to define their needs when appealing for aid to local authorities, to alumni, and to the public. The amount at which the grant has now been fixed (1,380,000*l.*) is approximately 39 per cent. of the aggregate annual expenditure of the universities concerned in 1922–23.

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Early Science at Oxford.

March 7, 1683/4.—After ye reading of ye Minutes, Dr. Plot was pleased to acquaint ye Society that he had lately calcined clay-ochre, and stone-ochre (both which were yellow, from Shotover) about thirty-six hours, but neither of them applied to ye Magnet; which gave ye Doctor grounds to question, whether yellow ochres will be affected by ye Magnet after any calcination, how long soever. Tobacco-pipe clay, Marl, Bole armeniac and Terra Lemnia were calcined ye same space of time, but none of them applied to ye Magnet.

Then Dr. Pit was pleased to inform ye Society that Oyl Olive is incapable of any ebullition after it has spent its aqueous parts, which rise in bubbles; for, being pressed with a stronger fire, than what made water boyl over a large vessell, it could not be sensibly raised, although ye heat of ye oyl was so intense, that, being removed from ye fire, it broke out into a flame, and continued to do so after six or seven suffocations of ye flame. Butter boyls over till its serous parts are evaporated, but afterwards, though pressed with a very great heat, is no more capable of ebullition, than so much melted lead.

A Report of ye consultation, held for ye drawing up Articles, for ye better Regulation of ye Society, was offered; but ye examination of it was deferred, till ye next meeting: which was ordered to be on ye Tuesday following, at 2 after dinner.

March 8, 1686/7.—Dr. Plot reported on the prices of commodities in the time of King John, which he had extracted from a Dugdale manuscript in the Ashmolean Library.—Mr. President wrote to Mr. Halley several arguments against Mr. Hooke's late hypothesis of the change of the surface of ye Earth.

March 9, 1685/6.—Dr. Lister of London communicated a paper of Georgics concerning ye improvement of Sandy land by ye *Vicia multiflora nemorensis perennis sive Dumetorum* L.B. which is practised both in Yorkshire and Staffordshire.

March 10, 1684/5.—Mr. Maunders speaking of ye dismall weather on ye 23rd of December last, says, that above eighty Persons were found killed by it, in Wiltshire and Dorsetshire. Some died suddenly, others by degrees: some, that escaped, were so tormented in their hands, and face (parts exposed to ye cold) that, as they recovered, and ye swellings abated, the skin peeled off, and they were some days without ye use of their limbes, and sometimes of their senses.—Part of Mr. King's ingenious discourse of Bogs was read; and also Mr. Aston's letter relating that ye Savages of Canada get from Maple juice a sugar as sweet as that of ye Canes.

March 11, 1683/4.—Salamander's wool was observed, by Mr. Ballard, to be separated from ye earthy parts, to which it is joyn'd, by heating the Amianthus and bruising it into peices. It was ordered, that some attempts should be made, towards ye working this wool into a thread; that so we may [if it be possible] either trace out ye methods of ye Antients, or equal their inventions with new ones in this kind; for ye effecting of which, Dr. Beeston was pleased to take on him, ye trouble of employing some curious hand, suitable to so ingenious a design.

March 13, 1687/8.—Mr. Cole of Bristoll discoursed concerning the Descent of Spiders with their webs, taken in the County of Wilts in September and October 1686, with an occasionall discourse about Spontaneous Generation wherein is given also an account of people that have been witnesses of the raining of frogs and crabs.