

Services, on "Health in the Tropics: the Present and the Future."

An appointment is to be made in July of the Busk Studentship for research in aeronautics, and specially in those subjects such as stability problems, meteorological questions bearing on flight, or the investigation of gusts, treated either experimentally or mathematically, in which Edward Busk was specially interested. The Studentship is of the value of about 150*l.*, tenable for one year from October 1, and is open to any man or woman being a British subject and of British descent who had not attained the age of twenty-five years on October 1, 1924. Application forms, to be returned not later than May 12, can be obtained from Prof. B. M. Jones, Engineering Laboratory, Cambridge.

GLASGOW.—The degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) has been conferred on Mr. F. Y. Henderson for a thesis entitled "An Apparatus for the Study of Transpiration under Controlled Conditions."

THE Yorkshire Summer School of Geography will be held at Redcar during the fortnight August 8-22, providing the number of entries is sufficient. The School is intended to provide a "refresher" course for teachers of geography which will help them to keep in touch with recent developments, and will include lectures, practical work, discussions, and excursions. Lectures will be given on the principles of human geography, economic and regional geography, the teaching of geography, and on climate. Practical work will include the analysis and study of topographic maps and the elements of survey. Applications for tickets should be made, not later than May 11, to the Secretary of the Yorkshire Summer School of Geography, the University of Leeds.

THE "Spirit of Modern Science Instruction" is discussed in a thoughtful article by Director O. W. Caldwell of Lincoln School Teachers' College, New York City, in the January number of *School Life*, the organ of the United States Bureau of Education. During the past fifteen years dissatisfaction with excessive specialisation in secondary schools has led to the development, after much careful study and experiment, of a type of "general science" course which has been widely adopted. Returns for 1921-22 show that in 13,700 public high schools there was an enrolment of approximately 400,000 students in general science. The success of this type of course has been achieved in many schools without any diminution of the numbers enrolled in the physics, chemistry, zoology, botany, and physiology classes, and has changed beneficially the character of the work done in these sciences. The point, however, to which the article chiefly directs attention is not so much the importance of science teaching being efficient as the importance of cultivating in the young an appreciation of the proper use of science in modern life, and a determination to make it subservient to the general welfare. "Until people do not wish to destroy their enemies or their competitors they must not possess the means or knowledge for doing so. Science courses for all the people must help all the people to interpret science for service, not science for power." To considerations such as these are partially attributable, no doubt, the remarkable efforts that are being now made in the United States in connexion with the "Education Week," and otherwise to promote instruction and training in good citizenship.

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### Early Science at Oxford.

**May 3, 1687.** An account of ye Solar eclips, May ye 1st 1687, was communicated by Mr. Caswell. The Dublin Minutes from Nov. 15 to April ye 7th were read, speaking of a new Engin invented by Mr. Ash to raise water with an inconsiderable Power. They communicated a farther account of ye petrifying of Lough Neagh;—that a toad was kept for eight monthes in Dublin, notwithstanding ye Opinion that noe venomous creature would live there;—that hares and rabbits grow white by Snow;—that Partridges are generally white on ye-Alpes.

A discourse was given in to the Society, being a confirmation of Dr. Moline's Observation of ye communication between ye ears of Birds, by Mr. Pit.

**May 4, 1686.** A Letter from Mr. Grail, Rector of Lassington near Gloucester, was read, wherein he gave an account of the little stones called *Asteria*, found chiefly in his Parish, which being put in Vinegar, will move towards one another: if they lie long in vinegar they will wast away, but will keep their starre-like figures notwithstanding their diminution.

**May 5, 1685.** A Letter from Mr. Will. Molyneux gave an account of a new Hygroscope of his invention: it is made of common whip-cord fastened at ye upper end: the lower end hangs loose with a little weight annext, and turnes round according to ye degree of moisture in ye Air: the turning of ye lower end is mark'd by a tongue or index joynd to ye weight, and playing over a circle in paste-board or ye like, so as that ye weight hangs over ye centre of ye circle.

**May 6, 1684.** Dr. Plot was pleased to oblige us farther, with ye sight of a Glow-worm shining in ye middle of ye day. This gave occasion to some discourse concerning Lucid Animals; in which Dr. Bathurst bore a considerable share, affirming, that, in some dissections of Glow-wormes, he had formerly observed, that as soon as ye Insect was cut in peices, ye lucidity disappeared; but it was asserted that even ye peices of a dissected Glow-worm have been known to shine; ye Doctor mentioned ye bones of a Thornback, as remarkable for lucidity.

The Mercury of ye Barometers, haveing been very low, all ye last weeke, and no rain near Oxon, gave suspition that there might be rain at some distance: ye like event haveing been certainly known about a month since. This discourse began on ye account of a scheme of ye weather ye last month, taken, and communicated, by Dr. Plot.

**1690.** A Project of making all ye high-ways and streets perfectly good and smooth at ye charge of what 3 years expence as ye present amounts to; after which they may be kept in repair for ever with very little charge or trouble by the use of rollers instead of wheels.

**May 7, 1686.** The Minutes of the Dublin Society from Feb. 22 to April 26 were read. They gave an account that encouragement being given by ye Lord Lieutenant for forming that Society into a body corporate by the procurement of a Charter, subscriptions for money towards it were made by several.

Mention being made in those minutes of a place between the Tropicks where the *Shadow* goes twice forward upon the dial, and twice backward in a day, Mr. Caswell said that this thing happens some parts of the year in all places between the Tropicks (except under the Equinoctial) upon a horizontal dial, and in other places that are not in the torrid zone, upon an inclining dial.