

Under the auspices of the Vice-Chancellor, preparations have already begun for the visit of the British Association to Oxford in 1926. Local secretaries have been nominated, and a meeting has been summoned for the purpose of appointing a local general committee.

DR. HAROLD A. WILSON, F.R.S., professor of natural philosophy in the University of Glasgow, has accepted reappointment to the professorship of physics which he held at the Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, from 1912 to 1924 inclusive.

RESEARCH in secondary education in America has been enormously stimulated since the War by the stream of pamphlets, leaflets, and magazines issuing from the Bureau of Education. At a conference of representatives of the National Society of College Teachers of Education and other interested bodies last March, a programme of co-operation was discussed and steps were taken towards the constitution of a National Committee to initiate, direct, and co-ordinate research. The Bureau of Education will act as a clearing-house for information on the subject.

THE progress of educational research in the United States was extensively reviewed in the course of the proceedings of the education section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Washington last Christmas. A brief account is published in the February number of *School Life* of the scope of the papers—some forty or more—which were read on that occasion. The Americans are great experimenters, particularly in the very progressive private schools, in which the psychologist has a position and influence undreamed of in Great Britain. Among the more important of the large-scale experiments mentioned in the papers referred to is a progressive plan of grouping children by intelligence ratings that has been carried on in Detroit since 1920. In each of nine grades the children are divided into upper, middle, and lower groups, the upper and lower being each 20 per cent. of the whole. Basic courses of study and standards of promotion are worked out for each group, and special teaching methods are applied to the upper and lower groups. The scheme is reported to have worked well.

A STATISTICAL survey of education, 1921-22, being advance sheets from the biennial survey, 1920-1922, has been issued by the United States Bureau of Education as Bulletin, 1924, No. 38. It gives a total school and college enrolment of 26 millions, with an estimated cost of 2000 million dollars. Enrolments in institutions under private management were as follows: kindergartens, 10 per cent. of the total; elementary, 6 per cent.; secondary, 9 per cent.; normal schools and teachers' colleges, 6 per cent.; universities, colleges, and professional schools, 60 per cent.; institutions of all kinds, 8 per cent. The estimated cost of the elementary schools is 1240 million dollars, of high schools 450 millions, and of universities and colleges 273 millions. The per capita costs of elementary and high school education were the same in private as in public schools, but the per capita cost of university education was 581 dollars in public and 364 dollars in private institutions. It is interesting to compare with these estimates the per capita cost of education in the universities and university colleges of Great Britain (excluding Oxford and Cambridge) according to the tables recently issued for 1923-24 by the University Grants Committee. Including part-time (14,245) and full-time (33,752) students, the cost per student is 74*l.* or, at the current rate of exchange, 354 dollars—almost exactly the same as in private universities in the United States.

### Early Science at Oxford.

June 15, 1686. \*A letter from our President dated April ye 10th. was read; it gave an account that one Mrs. Hoden had several times before the death of divers of her relations *dreamed* of the losse of two or more of her teeth, having had noe such dreams at other times.

Then was read an observation communicated by Dr. Benbrig, concerning a gentleman who had a violent *paine* in his *ear* caused by maggots in it, a fly having blown in it the day before: Some milk being poured into his ear, at least sixty maggots came out, and the pain ceased.

Dr. Edward Tyson, Dr. Tankred Robinson, Francis Aston Esqr, Mr. John Flamstead, Mr. St. George Ash of Dublin, and Mr. Christopher Pit of Wadham Coll. were elected members of the Philosophical Society.

June 16, 1685. A discourse of Dr. Robinson's, and a Letter of Mr. Ray's, both concerning the French Marneuse, were read.

Mr. Pulleyn brought in an abstract of ye way of making artificiall Amber, extracted from a MS in Magdalen Hall Library, it is as followes—

#### *To make artificiall Amber.*

Seeth Turpentine in an earthen pan well leaded, and put therein a little cotton, stirring it, untill it be as thick as paste, then pour it into what you will, and set it in the sun eight daies together, and it will be clear, and hard enough; you may make of this beads, hafts of knives &c: And when they are made so, set them to harden again in ye sun, and they will be very hard and clear.

A letter from Mr. Leigh giving a description and containing a draught of the Sepia, together with a paper written with ye naturall ink of that fish, was communicated. These things are sent up to ye Royal Society.

An accurate account with figures of a monstrous Cat dissected by Dr. Mullen of Dublin was communicated in a letter from Mr. Ash, Secretary of ye Dublin Society, for which ye Society ordered their thanks to both these gentlemen.

A description and draught of an artificiall Fountain by Dr. Papin, was presented from Mr. Aston.

June 17, 1684. A letter from Mr. Aston, dated from London June ye 12th was read; a letter from Mr. Tancred Robinson, to Dr. M. L., concerning ye Bridg at Pont Esprit in France, was read. Dr. Plott affirms, that ye Bridg at Burton in Staffordshire (which is one of ye greatest in all England) is built after ye same manner with that at Pont St. Esprit: this occasion'd some discourse concerning ye running of Rivers; It was affirmed that Medway runs ye least way of any river in England, of that bigness.

Two remarkable cases relating to vision were communicated by Dr. Plot, to whom they were sent by Dr. Briggs of London; one of these cases was a *Nyctalopia*; a distemper not frequent amongst us.

It was affirmed, that Dr. Turberfeild of Salisbury has (not long since) met with a disease of ye eye as yet undiscovered, it was a bag of matter on ye outside of ye ball of ye eye, prominent from ye *tunica adnata*; the Dr. cured his patient, and called this distemper *Bursa Oculi*.

There being some Discourse concerning severall ways of making a *Spiritus fumans cum Aere*; it was ordered that a Spirit of that kind should be made, and an account of ye process brought into ye Society, which Mr. Bainbrigg undertook to do.

Dr. Pudsey, Fellow of Magdalen College, and Mr. Alexander Cuningham of St. Leonard's College in St. Andrews, were proposed to ye Society.