

Contemporary Birthdays.

- April 11, 1862. Prof. W. Wallace Campbell, For.Mem.R.S.
 April 11, 1863. Mr. Henry Balfour, F.R.S.
 April 11, 1890. Dr. Eric K. Rideal.
 April 12, 1851. Mr. Edward Walter Maunder.
 April 14, 1867. Prof. J. C. M'Lennan, F.R.S.

Prof. W. W. CAMPBELL, the distinguished director of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, and president (since 1923) of the University of California, was born at Hancock Co., Ohio. The development of astronomical knowledge owes much indeed to him during the past thirty-five years, not only for practical issues, but also for valuable contributions to the journals recording theoretical progress in the science of astronomy. He has had charge of many eclipse expeditions, and those who were privileged to act with him have testified to his enthusiasm, powers of organisation, and resourcefulness. Prof. Campbell was among those who were successful in adopting the method of employing a moving photographic plate to record the succession of phenomena during a solar eclipse. The Royal Astronomical Society awarded him its gold medal in 1906 for his spectroscopic researches on stellar objects, and work respecting stellar motions in the line of sight. The Paris Academy of Sciences allotted Prof. Campbell the Lalande medal in 1903, and the Janssen medal in 1910, for researches and discoveries in stellar spectroscopy.

Mr. HENRY BALFOUR was educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Oxford. Since 1891 he has been curator of the extensive ethnological and archaeological collections acquired by the late General Pitt Rivers, F.R.S., and presented by him to the University of Oxford in 1884. Huxley medallist of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and a past president of the Folk-lore Society, Mr. Balfour is the author of many noteworthy memoirs.

Dr. E. K. RIDEAL is an old pupil of Oundle; from thence he graduated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He is Owen Jones lecturer in physical chemistry in the University of Cambridge. For a year (1919-20) Dr. Rideal was visiting professor of physical chemistry in the University of Illinois, U.S.A.

Mr. E. W. MAUNDER, astronomer, entered the service of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, as an assistant in 1873, and from that date until 1913 he was Superintendent of the Solar Department. Mr. Maunder was educated at University College School, London, and King's College. He has taken part in many eclipse expeditions. Author of a number of useful works on practical and popular astronomy, he has in several of these had the happy advantage of Mrs. Maunder's collaboration. He founded the British Astronomical Association in 1890.

Prof. J. C. M'LENNAN, Director of the Physical Laboratory in the University of Toronto, though born in Ontario, is of Scottish descent. He received his education at the Universities of Toronto and Cambridge. His attachment to the former began in 1892, and has never been severed. Prof. M'Lennan was president of the Royal Society of Canada, 1924-25. In 1923 he was president of Section A (Mathematics and Physics) at the Liverpool meeting of the British Association; the subject of his discourse was, "On the Origin of Spectra." The Royal Society of Arts allotted him a medal in 1919, for his paper "Science and Industry in Canada." He is D.Sc., Manchester and Liverpool.

Societies and Academies.

LONDON.

Royal Microscopical Society, February 17.—A. PINEY: The principles of hæmatological differentiation. An attempt to classify the normal leucocytes of human blood on purely morphological grounds. The characters of the nuclei must be regarded as the determining feature, particularly the distribution of the two forms of chromatin. Cells with sharp distinction of the chromatin into two types were derived from the bone marrow (myeloid cells), while those with incomplete separation of the two substances in the nucleus were of lymphatic origin. The technical details of preparing the films were discussed.

Royal Microscopical Society (Industrial Applications Section), February 24.—C. A. KLEIN: The application of the microscope to the examination of pigments and paints. More precise information is required as to the size of pigment particles in view of the important relationship known to exist between particle size and the subsequent behaviour of paints, in respect to ease of application and also wearing properties. The methods of sieving and subsidence frequently used to indicate the fineness of division of pigments have limitations, and microscopical examination is recommended after grading of the material by elutriation, in order to obtain fields of more even-sized particles. The removal of even small proportions of over-sized particles in paint materials is an expensive process. Many problems in connexion with the behaviour of paint films on drying and subsequent exposure could be solved by the proper application of microscopical methods as in the United States of America, where they have been applied to a considerable extent.

Royal Anthropological Institute, March 2.—Mrs. Janet B. Montgomery McGovern: The head-hunters of Formosa. The Chinese-Formosans of the towns do not differ materially from the Chinese of the mother country; it is among the pseudo-aboriginals of the almost inaccessible mountain ranges that curious customs are observed. Of these tribes the most interesting are the Taiyal, the head-hunting tattooed tribe of the northernmost mountains. A feature of their culture is the government of the tribe by women. Their power is both spiritual and temporal. The chieftainess of each sub-tribe is also the priestess of that sub-tribe. She is assisted by other priestesses, mostly widows. They officiate at marriage and funeral ceremonies, and act as physicians in case of illness, effecting some marvellous cures. The chief priestess also performs the ceremonial tattooing. All the children have their foreheads tattooed in a series of horizontal marks at the age of five years. At marriage, elaborate markings are tattooed on the cheeks of the bride, and on attainment of the rank of priestess further elaborate markings are added. The warriors are also tattooed by the priestess. One function of the priestess is the ceremonial kindling of new fire once a year. From this all fires are re-lighted. The priestess also decides when head-hunting expeditions are to be carried out, and in what direction. No warrior may marry unless he has at least one head to his credit. For each head that is taken, a horizontal mark is tattooed on the chin. An essential part of the marriage ceremony is that bride and groom should drink millet wine from a cup made of a skull taken by the latter. A communal system prevails among the Taiyal, the millet, the principal food of the people, being distributed by the high priestess from the communal