

arrived, perhaps bringing with them the dingo. In the last few thousands of years the sea-level has fallen by about 15 feet.

The salient features in the tectonic structure were briefly discussed, with especial reference to Suess's views as to the arrangement of the Australian arcs, and the physiographic features, chiefly with reference to the phenomena of arid erosion. The origin of the inland sand-hills of Central Australia is attributed to the disintegration of the widespread Permo-Carboniferous sandstones, for the later seas of that period transgressed over large areas of Australia, possibly in part through a eustatic rise of sea-level following on the melting of the great Permo-Carboniferous ice-sheets.

Ventilation and Comfort.

THE Medical Research Council has published a report on the "Methods of Investigating Ventilation and its Effects," by H. M. Vernon and others (Special Report Series, No. 100: Methods of Investigating Ventilation and its Effects. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1926, 2s. net). Part 1 contains descriptions of two new instruments for the measurement of variations (*a*) in the velocity and (*b*) in the temperature of air currents. For the former purpose a new form of hot-wire anemometer was constructed which is very sensitive to changes of air velocity, while influenced little by changes in temperature. For the latter purpose a suitable thermopile was devised which was unaffected by changes in velocity. The combined use of these two instruments has thrown further light on the relative importance of temperature and air movement in ventilation. In Part 2 the results of a further calibration of Leonard Hill's kata-thermometer are given, which allow low-air velocities found in ordinary rooms to be measured with far greater accuracy.

Part 3 consists of an investigation of the extent to which objective indications of the kata-thermometer correspond with actual sensations of comfort. Acclimatisation is shown to have an important influence. It is concluded that the cooling power of 6, fixed as the minimum for sedentary workers in Great Britain by Leonard Hill, may reasonably be 5 for people acclimatised to summer weather, and 7 for people acclimatised to winter weather. "It was found that the various degrees of 'stagnancy' experienced in factory air were due to differences in the air temperature, whilst the various degrees of 'freshness' were due chiefly to differences in air velocity. The cooling power of the kata-thermometer combines these two variables better than any other known measure, and the correlation ratio of cooling power on air sensation was found to be .703 in summer and .790 in winter."

In Part 4, Dr. Vernon has studied the rate of cooling of the human body, as shown by fall of mouth and rectal temperatures, naked and clothed, after being warmed up by previous exercise, and has in this way thrown further light on the relative importance of air temperature, clothing, and air movements. The results tend to show that in order to induce cooling of men engaged in hot and heavy work, it is of most importance to reduce temperature and next clothing, small increase of velocity of air having comparatively little effect.

Work now in progress in the new wind tunnel built at the National Institute for Medical Research shows, however, that velocity can have a very great effect on warmly clad men, when it is sufficient to drive air through and so ventilate the clothing. By means of wind sufficient to evaporate the sweat effectively, men can be kept much more comfortable, and will in consequence work better, in hot atmospheres.

University and Educational Intelligence.

LONDON.—A University chair of bacteriology and immunology, tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a University chair of epidemiology and vital statistics, tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, have been instituted.

The following courses of free public lectures are announced: "The Influence of Water on Vital Processes," by Prof. J. B. Collingwood, at University College, on April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, at 5.30; "The Integration of the Circulation," by Prof. R. J. S. McDowall, at King's College, on April 27, May 4, 11, and 18, at 4.30; and "The Nature and Functions of the Fasciæ of the Human Body," by Prof. J. Kay Jamieson, at King's College, on April 30, May 7 and 14, at 5.30.

Applications for grants from the Dixon Fund for assisting scientific investigations, accompanied by the names and addresses of two references, must be made to the Academic Registrar, University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7, before May 15, and those for grants from the Thomas Smythe Hughes Fund for assisting Medical Research, accompanied by the names and addresses of two references, not later than June 15.

APPLICATIONS are invited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for not more than five agricultural scholarships tenable for two years and annually of the value of not more than 200*l.*, plus, possibly, extra allowances for travelling and subsistence whilst the scholars are abroad. The application form, A.189/T.E., must be returned to the Secretary of the Ministry, 10 Whitehall Place, S.W.1, by June 30 at latest.

IT was stated in the House of Commons last week by Lord Eustace Percy, President of the Board of Education, that the Government is in general agreement with the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the University of London, and that it is proposed to introduce legislation for the purpose of setting up a statutory Commission for the University accordingly.

THE presentation portrait of the late Sir Sydney Russell-Wells, painted by his nephew, Mr. John Wells, R.L., will be unveiled in the staff room of the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bart., at 3 o'clock on Tuesday, May 4. The portrait, which has been subscribed for by the friends and colleagues of the late Sir Sydney Russell-Wells, represents Sir Sydney in his robes as Vice-Chancellor of the University of London. Those desiring to be present at the ceremony may obtain cards of invitation on application to Prof. R. Tanner Hewlett at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich.

THE Court of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers has agreed to offer a scholarship of 60*l.* per annum for two years tenable at the Harper Adams Agricultural College, for the training of persons to be instructors in the practice and science of poultry husbandry. Candidates must be British-born and not less than sixteen years of age on October 1, 1926. They must produce satisfactory certificates of character and physical fitness, and should have passed an examination of matriculation standard. The successful candidate will be required to take an approved course of study leading to the National Diploma in Poultry Husbandry. The award will be made on the recommendation of the Principal of the Harper Adams Agricultural College, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.