Contemporary Birthdays.

July 28, 1864.   Prof. Charles Herbert Lees, F.R.S.
July 30, 1856.   Viscount Haldane, K.T.,O.M.,F.R.S.
Aug. 2, 1876.   Prof. James Wesley Jobling.
Aug. 5, 1878.   Prof. Louis C. Karpinski.
Aug. 7, 1864.   Mr. Oswald H. Latter.
Aug. 8, 1845.   Mr. William Barlow, F.R.S.
Aug. 8, 1859.   Sir Alfred G. Bourne, K.C.I.E., F.R.S.
Aug. 8, 1857.   Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn, For.
Mem. R.S.(see page 163).
Aug. 8, 1858.   Sir Francis G. Ogilvie.

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Prof. LEES, who occupies the chair of physics in the University of London (East London College), was born at Glodwick, Oldham. He was educated privately, then at Owens College, Manchester, and at the University of Strasbourg. Before engaging in professorial work in London he was lecturer in physics in the University of Manchester.

Lord HALDANE, Chancellor of the University of Bristol since 1909, was educated at Edinburgh Academy, the University of Edinburgh (of which he was rector, 1905-8), and at Göttingen. He is Hon. D.C.L. (Oxon). Among many critical expositions, he is the author of " The Philosophy of Humanism " (1922). Lord Haldane is president of the British Institute of Adult Education.

Prof. J. WESLEY JOBLING was born in Ohio. Originally on the teaching staff of Columbia University, he was professor of pathology from 1914 until 1918 in the medical department of Vanderbilt University, Nashville (Tennessee), returning then to Columbia to occupy the chair of pathology there.

Prof. LOUIS C. KARPINSKI, mathematician, was born at Rochester, N.Y. He was educated at the State Normal and Training School, Oswego, N.Y., and the University of Strasbourg. Since 1919 he has been professor of mathematics in the University of Michigan. He is joint author with H. Y. Benedict and J. W. Calhoun of " Unified Mathematics " (1918).

Mr. OSWALD LATTER, who has been for many years science master at Charterhouse School, was born at Fulham. From Charterhouse he went to Keble College, Oxford. Sometime Berkeley fellow of Owens College, Manchester, he was also a tutor of Keble before returning to his old school to take up science teaching.

Mr. WILLIAM BARLOW is a Londoner. He is specially identified with researches on crystal structure and related problems. Mr. Barlow is a past president of the Mineralogical Society.

Sir ALFRED BOURNE, a native of Lowestoft, was educated at University College School, London. His services to the Indian Empire have been varied and distinctive. Successively he has been registrar of the University of Madras, botanist to the Madras Government, and professor of biology in the Presidency College, Madras.

Sir FRANCIS OGILVIE, an Aberdonian, graduated at the University of Aberdeen, and, early in his career, was on its teaching staff. In Edinburgh he had, later, various important interests. He was principal of the Heriot-Watt College there from 1886 until 1900, thereafter, for three years, director of the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art. Transferred to London, he was Secretary of the Board of Education for the Science Museum and Geological Survey from 1910 until 1920, holding also the directorship of the Science Museum. Sir Francis was principal assistant-secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 1920–22. He is Hon. LL.D., Edinburgh.

Societies and Academies.

DUBLIN.

Royal Irish Academy, June 28.—H. Ryan, J. Keane, and B. O'Donoghue : Some derivatives of γ - piperonylidene - methylethylketone. The present communication describes the results of experiments carried out with this substance and some aromatic aldehydes. The starting substance, $CH_3 . CO . C(CH_3) = CH . C_6H_3 . O_2CH_2$, was prepared by the condensation of piperonal and methylethylketone in the presence of hydrochloric acid. By the action of piperonal on γ-piperonylidene-methylethylketone in the presence of alkali, a compound having the formula $C_{20}H_{16}O_5$ was obtained. This dicondensation derivative did not react with a further quantity of piperonal in the presence of alkali, and it was regarded as being 1-methyl-4·5-dipiperonyl-cyclopenten (3)-one (2). On treating this compound with alcoholic hydrochloric acid, it was converted into the isomeric 1-methyl-4·5 - dipiperonyl - cyclopenten (4)-one (2). This substance reacted with piperonal in the presence of alkali to form a tricondensation compound $C_{28}H_{20}O_7$. By the action of piperonal on γ-piperonylidene-methylethylketone or on the $C_{20}H_{16}O_5$ body in the presence of hydrochloric acid, the same tricondensation compound $C_{28}H_{20}O_7$ was obtained. This derivative is regarded as being 3-piperonylidene 1-methyl-4·5-dipiperonyl-cyclopenten (4)-one (2). The results obtained in this research are similar to those found by Ryan and Lennon in their investigation on the condensations of aldehydes with methylethylketone.—H. Ryan, J. Keane, and B. O'Donoghue : Some derivatives of α - piperonylidene - methylethylketone. The results of the interaction of α-piperonylidene-methylethylketone and some aromatic aldehydes are described. By the action of piperonal on the starting substance, a compound having the formula $C_{20}H_{16}O_5$ was obtained. This dicondensation derivative of methylethylketone and piperonal was not identical with either of compounds having the same molecular formula obtained by the action of piperonal on γ-piperonylidene-methylethylketone. The last-mentioned derivatives are regarded as isomeric cyclopentenones. The $C_{20}H_{16}O_5$ body prepared by the action of piperonal on α - piperonylidene - methylethylketone formed a tetrabromide and did not react with a further quantity of piperonal. It is regarded as α-γ-dipiperonylidene-methylethylketone. By the action of piperonal on α-piperonylidene-methylethylketone in the presence of hydrochloric acid, a tricondensation compound $C_{28}H_{20}O_7$ was obtained. This body was also prepared by the action of piperonal on γ-piperonylidene-methylethylketone and was proved to be 3-piperonylidene-1-methyl 4·5-dipiperonyl-cyclopenten (4)-one (2). —R. K. Boylan : Atmospheric dust and condensation nuclei. As a result of observations made in Dublin between October 1925 and June 1926, using Owens' jet dust counter and Aitken's apparatus, the following average values were obtained : dust particles per c.c. 1580, nuclei per c.c. 23,800. The correlation coefficient between the concentrations of the two bodies was $0·73 \pm 0·056$. It was found, in confirmation of the results of Wigand, that dust particles would not act as centres for cloudy condensation even in the absence of the ordinary nuclei.

EDINBURGH.

Royal Society, July 5.—J. Tait : Experiments and observations on Crustacea (Pt. vii.). Some structural and physiological features of the valviferous isopod Chirodotea. This isopod is found along the eastern shores of America. It is peculiar among its kind in that it combines the activity of swimming, walking,