

statesmen, diplomats, the study of political science, etc., the co-ordination of scientific bibliography, the foundation of an international meteorological office, and the establishment of an international museum office to improve the organisation of catalogues and promote mutual assistance by loans, exchanges, distribution of photographs, etc. Sitting as governing body of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, the committee received its report, adopted a programme and drew up a budget. The Institute will have at its disposal this year the French Government's subsidy of two million French francs, the Polish Government's grant of 100,000 French francs and the Czechoslovak Government's subsidy of 15,000 gold francs. The committee emphasised the necessity of setting up national university information offices in countries where they do not already exist. It was decided to study the possibility of convening in 1927 a meeting of representatives of national committees of intellectual co-operation.

UNIVERSITY tutorial class (extra-mural) teaching and its problems form the subject of a paper by Mr. R. S. Lambert, hon. secretary of the Association of Tutorial Class Tutors, published in the June number of the *Bulletin of the Association of University Teachers*. The writer points out that as the classes are largely organised by the Workers' Educational Association, nearly every tutor finds himself connected with this body, becomes a member of it, shares in its propaganda, and finds many opportunities for service as a speaker in the meetings of trade union branches, co-operative societies and guilds, working men's clubs, etc., which form the students' recruiting ground. About half the classes are, he says, taken by lecturers holding a salaried post within a university, who take a single class or two classes, in addition to their internal work, or instead of part of it, and are paid a fee per class (80s. as a rule). The other half are taken by tutors giving the whole or a greater part of their time. Of these, about twenty-five hold permanent salaried posts as 'staff tutors' under the various Joint (University and W.E.A.) Committees, and thirty have no guaranteed salary or status, but are dependent for their livelihood on fees paid according to the number of classes they happen to be taking. The work is both physically and mentally exacting, and four or five classes per week (each class meets twenty-four times during the year) are enough to occupy a man's entire energies. It is clear that these extra-mural classes of adult three-year students constitute vitally important areas of contact between the universities and the community, and their development, which is proceeding rapidly, needs very close attention.

COMPARATIVE statistics of German university students in 1914 and 1925 show very remarkable changes in distribution among the various faculties. Students of medicine, the humanities, mathematical and natural sciences, and evangelical theology comprised in 1914 respectively 25, 21, 11, and 7 per cent. of the total numbers; in 1925 these percentages had shrunk to 11.5, 16, 8, and 3. Students of law, of political science, and of chemistry, on the other hand, increased from 17, 4, and 1 per cent. to 28, 15.5, and 5 per cent. The total number increased during the same period from 69,644 to 81,699, this last figure being smaller by nearly eight thousand than the corresponding figure for 1924. These statistics are taken from "Academicus," a useful handbook of information about German universities and polytechnics. The 1926 issue (published by Alfred Lorentz, Leipzig, price M2.40) includes, for the first time, particulars of the German-speaking institutions of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

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### Contemporary Birthdays.

- August 14, 1861. Sir Richard Threlfall, K.B.E., F.R.S.  
 August 14, 1860. Dr. Arthur Prince Chattock, F.R.S.  
 August 15, 1842. Sir William A. Tilden, F.R.S.  
 August 15, 1871. Prof. Grafton Elliot Smith, F.R.S.  
 August 16, 1863. Prof. Frederic Stanley Kipping, F.R.S.  
 August 18, 1831. Mr. Ernest Noel, F.G.S.  
 August 19, 1868. Prof. William Bulloch, F.R.S.

SIR RICHARD THRELFALL, who was born at Hollowforth, Lancashire, was educated at Clifton and Caius College, Cambridge. He is chairman of the Fuel Research Board.

DR. CHATTOCK was born at Solihull, Warwickshire. He is emeritus professor of experimental physics in the University of Bristol.

SIR WILLIAM TILDEN, the veteran chemist, to whom we offer our very hearty congratulations on the celebration of his eighty-fourth birthday, was born in London. Formerly a science master at Clifton College, he occupied next the chair of chemistry at Mason College, Birmingham. On leaving there he became professor of chemistry at the Royal College of Science, London, retiring in 1909. The Royal Society had awarded him in the previous year its Davy medal for his discoveries in chemistry. Sir William gave the Mendeléeff Memorial Lecture before the Chemical Society, in 1909, in all respects a masterly exposition. Incidentally, we may recall that Mendeléeff's last appearance in London was in November 1905, when he attended to receive the Copley medal of the Royal Society.

Prof. G. ELLIOT SMITH was born at Grafton, N.S.W., and educated at the Universities of Sydney and Cambridge. Formerly professor of anatomy in the University of Manchester, he now occupies a similar chair in University College (University of London). In 1912 the Royal Society awarded him a Royal medal in recognition of distinctive investigations on the comparative anatomy of the brain. Prof. Elliot Smith is the author (among many works) of "The Evolution of Man" (1924), and holds original views on the origin and diffusion of culture.

Prof. KIPPING was born at Manchester and educated there at the Grammar School, at Owens College, and at the University of Munich. For some time he was on the teaching staff of Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and next became a lecturer in chemistry at the Central Technical College, London. In 1897 Prof. Kipping was appointed to the chair of chemistry in University College, Nottingham. The Royal Society awarded him its Davy medal in 1918 for his investigations in organic chemistry.

MR. ERNEST NOEL, who is in his ninety-fifth year, is the *doyen* of the Geological Society of London. Educated at Edinburgh and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was elected into the Geological Society in 1849, and thus has been seventy-seven years on its roll.

DR. WILLIAM BULLOCH was born at Aberdeen and educated there at the University. Formerly assistant professor of pathology in University College, London, he has been, since 1919, Goldsmiths' professor of bacteriology in the University of London. He is Hon. LL.D. Aberdeen.