

THE Air Ministry announces further appointments to short-service commissions in the Royal Air Force to be made in September. Applications are specially welcome from young men who have had some engineering training or have shown a bent towards mechanical matters in their private amusements, as well as from those who are keen sportsmen and have a leaning towards travel and adventure. Short-service officers are taught to fly and at the same time receive instruction in aeronautical engineering, armament, navigation, etc. Service in the R.A.F. counts in part towards the period necessary to become associate members of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Applications for regulations should be addressed to the Secretary, Air Ministry, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Candidates must be between 18 and 25 years of age, should have received whole-time education at least up to the age of 16 years, and should possess good physique and eyesight.

THE Ramsay Memorial Fellowship Trustees have made the following awards of new fellowships for the session 1926-27:—A British Fellowship of 300*l.*, tenable for two years, to Dr. R. F. Hunter, for work at the Imperial College, London; a Glasgow Fellowship of 300*l.*, tenable for two years, to Mr. J. D. Fulton, for work at the University of Manchester; a Swedish Fellowship of 307*l.*, to Mr. Gunnar Hägg, for work at University College, London; a Swiss Fellowship of 300*l.*, tenable for one year, to Dr. Max Brunner, for work at the University of Cambridge. The Trustees have renewed the following Fellowships for a year; Mr. G. A. Elliott (British Fellowship)—at University College, London; Mr. T. Corlett Mitchell (Glasgow Fellowship)—University of Cambridge; Dr. D. McKay Morrison (Canadian Fellowship)—University of Cambridge; Mr. W. G. Burgers (Netherlands Fellowship)—Royal Institution, London; Dr. Ekonomopoulos (Greek Fellowship)—University College, London; Dr. P. Misciattelli (Italian Fellowship)—University of Oxford; Mr. Erik Rudberg (Swedish Fellowship)—King's College, London.

THE League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation has received from its sub-committee of experts recommendations concerning the instruction of children and young people in the existence and aims of the League. These recommendations raise questions of principle of the highest importance. It is proposed to request Governments to include the subject in their programme of studies and to ensure that the relevant text-books mention it, that education authorities should arrange that in examinations, questions on the League should be set whenever practicable, and that universities should organise special courses of at least six lectures which all students might attend. In addition numerous devices are recommended for propagating knowledge of the League and its gospel, such as the dissemination of books and periodicals, lantern slides, cinematograph films and radio broadcast addresses, special courses for teachers, celebration of League Days at schools, essay competitions, inspirational lectures, and national conferences. The exact place which this instruction will occupy in the curriculum and the time to be allotted to it are, the sub-committee remarks, questions which should be left for the national or local authorities to decide, but it is recommended that it should be correlated with the lessons in "geography, history or civics." Where civics is included in the school curriculum a teacher may fairly be expected to give some instruction about the League of Nations, but where it is not, it is open to question whether such instruction should be smuggled in as "geography" or "history."

NO. 2965, VOL. 118]

### Contemporary Birthdays.

- August 27, 1865. Prof. James Henry Breasted.  
 August 28, 1858. Prof. Roland Thaxter.  
 August 30, 1871. Sir Ernest Rutherford, O.M., P.R.S.  
 September 1, 1877. Dr. F. W. Aston, F.R.S.  
 September 1, 1859. Dr. Walter Gardiner, F.R.S.  
 September 2, 1877. Prof. Frederick Soddy, F.R.S.  
 September 3, 1882. Dr. William Lawrence Balls, F.R.S.

Prof. J. H. BREASTED, the accomplished American Egyptologist, was born at Rockford, Illinois. His interests early centred in the University of Chicago. Since 1905 he has been professor there in Egyptology and Oriental history. In 1894-95 he was collecting in Egypt for the University, and, later, director of its Egyptian Expedition. In 1920 he was in charge of an archæological survey of Mesopotamia. Prof. Breasted is an honorary fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and D.Litt., Oxford.

Prof. THAXTER, who was born at Newton, Mass., U.S.A., graduated at Harvard. Assistant professor of cryptogamic botany there from 1891 until 1901, he later occupied the chair, and he has been, since 1919, emeritus professor. He is the author of many papers on the fungous diseases of insects. Prof. Thaxter is a foreign member of the Linnean Society.

Sir ERNEST RUTHERFORD, president of the Royal Society, Nobel laureate in chemistry, 1908, was born at Nelson, New Zealand. He was educated at the University of New Zealand and Trinity College, Cambridge. After prosecuting research work at the Cavendish Laboratory, he left England in 1898 to occupy the chair of experimental physics in McGill University, returning in 1908. His record of accomplishment in the domain of radioactivity and atomic structure is world known.

Dr. ASTON, Nobel laureate in chemistry, 1922, was born at Harborne, Birmingham, and educated at Malvern College and the University of Birmingham. In 1910 he became one of Sir J. J. Thomson's research assistants at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge. Here it was, under stimulating associations, that Dr. Aston engaged in his classical researches on isotopes. In 1922 the Royal Society awarded him its Hughes medal for his "discovery of isotopes of a large number of the elements by the method of positive rays."

Dr. GARDINER was educated at Bedford, graduating at Clare College, Cambridge. Sometime a science lecturer at Girton, and University lecturer in botany, he received one of the Royal Society's Royal medals in 1898, at the hands of Lord Lister. His researches in vegetable histology established that the protoplasm in the tissues of plants is continuous from cell to cell. Other work of his dealt with the function of tannin, protoplasmic contractility, and the phenomena accompanying stimulation in insectivorous plants.

Prof. SODDY, Nobel laureate in chemistry, 1921, a graduate of Merton, was born at Eastbourne. Early, at McGill University, Montreal, he was working under the inspiring guidance of Sir Ernest Rutherford, engaged in researches on radioactivity; afterwards he was with Sir William Ramsay at University College, London, a period when proof was obtained with the spectroscope of the production of helium from radium. Occupant of the chair of chemistry in the University of Aberdeen from 1914 until 1919, he left to become Lees professor of chemistry in the University of Oxford.