

Contemporary Birthdays.

December 17, 1853. M. Émile Roux, For.Mem.R.S.
 December 17, 1861. Mr. Edward Heron-Allen, F.R.S.
 December 18, 1856. Sir J. J. Thomson, O.M., F.R.S.
 December 19, 1852. Prof. A. A. Michelson, For.Mem.R.S.
 December 20, 1876. Dr. Walter Sydney Adams.
 December 22, 1862. Dr. Vaughan Cornish.

DIRECTOR of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, a foreign member of the Royal Society of London, and Copley medallist, Dr. Émile Roux was born at Confolens. Early in his career he worked in Pasteur's laboratory, and in the course of time became his collaborator in pathological research. In 1889 Roux delivered, on behalf of M. Pasteur, whose health did not allow attendance, the Royal Society's Croonian lecture, on the subject "Les Inoculations Préventives."

Mr. E. HERON-ALLEN is a Londoner, and was educated at Harrow. He has written many papers on the Foraminifera, including one published in the *Philosophical Transactions* (1915), entitled "Bionomics of the Foraminifera." In 1916-18 Mr. Heron-Allen was president of the Royal Microscopical Society. He has done original work in many departments of natural history, and is, in addition, an authority on Persian literature.

Prof. MICHELSON was born at Strelno, Germany. Entering and graduating at the U.S. Naval Academy, he joined the Nautical Almanac Office, Washington; afterwards he studied at the Universities of Berlin, Heidelberg, and the Ecole Polytechnique, Paris. From 1889 until 1892 he was professor of physics at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, leaving to become professor and head of the Department of Physics in the University of Chicago. A foreign member of the Royal Society of London, he was awarded the Copley medal in 1907. In that year he was also Nobel laureate in physics. Prof. Michelson was a pioneer in the construction of interferometers, and his optical inventions have rendered possible the reproduction of accurate metric standards, which are now widely used. He has received many foreign recognitions; he is Hon. Sc.D., Cambridge, and an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, which awarded him its gold medal in 1923. Prof. Michelson was added to our roll of "Scientific Worthies" in NATURE of January 2, 1926.

Dr. W. S. ADAMS was born at Antioch. He was sent to Dartmouth College, Hanover, U.S.A., and afterwards to the University of Chicago. Appointed an assistant at Yerkes Observatory, he removed in 1901 to fill a similar post at Mount Wilson Observatory, California, becoming Director in 1923. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, he is one of its Draper medallists. The Royal Astronomical Society awarded Dr. Adams its gold medal in 1917 for his investigations in stellar spectroscopy. Last year his observations on the spectrum of the companion of Sirius enabled him to confirm Einstein's prediction of the gravitational displacement of spectral lines, and also Eddington's calculations of the very high density of white dwarf stars.

Dr. VAUGHAN CORNISH, a zealous geographer, was born at Debenham, Suffolk. He was educated at St. Paul's School and the Victoria University, Manchester. In 1900 the Royal Geographical Society allotted him the Gill Memorial Award for extended researches on sea-beaches, sand-dunes, and wave-form in water. President of Section E (Geography) at the Liverpool meeting of the British Association in 1923, he gave an address on the British Empire regarded as a maritime organisation. He is the author of "The Great Capitals: an Historical Geography" (1923).

Societies and Academies.

LONDON.

Optical Society, November 11.—J. W. T. Walsh and W. Barnett: The effect of slightly selective absorption in the paint used for photometric integrators. A sensibly non-selective internal coating for photometric integrators is very difficult to produce and still more difficult to maintain. When lamps of different colour temperatures are compared in an integrator with an internal coating which shows selective absorption in, say, the blue, the values of candle-power obtained for the lamps of lower colour temperature will be too high, and vice versa. A simple method is given for calculating the magnitude of the effect for sources having a spectrum approximating to that of a black body. In work on normal type electric lamps, to an accuracy of 1 to 2 per cent., a quite noticeable coloration of the light may be produced by the sphere (either on account of paint or window selectivity or both) without the necessity for making any correction to the measured values of candle-power.—**Conrad Beck:** An accurate method of ascertaining the position of the focal point of an optical system. The method consists essentially in placing a diaphragm with two slit apertures behind the object-glass to be tested, the directions of the slits being at right angles to one another, and finding the position where the images form a symmetrical cross. Results of measurements by this method of the zonal aberrations of apochromatic microscope object-glasses are given.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, November 15.—Georges Perrier: The regular triangulation of Morocco. Outline of geodesic work done in Morocco since 1910, with key map.—F. E. Fournier: Effects useful or detrimental to the velocity of ships.—Charles Moureu, Charles Dufraisse, and Marius Badoche: Autoxidation and antioxygen action (XX.). Catalytic actions of a new series of nitrogen compounds. General observations on the nitrogen compounds. Details of the study of the catalytic properties of thirty-seven new nitrogen compounds.—H. Douvillé: The marbles of Sarrancolin and of Saint-Béat in the Central Pyrenees.—Jean Baptiste Senderens and Jean Aboulenc: The etherification of the hydroaromatic alcohols. Cyclohexanol, heated with 2 per cent. sulphuric acid (concentrated or diluted) does not give cyclohexyl oxide, but a mixture of cyclohexene and its polymer. Similarly, a mixture of cyclohexanol and a fatty alcohol fails to give a mixed ether. On the other hand, the hydroaromatic alcohol and an aromatic alcohol under the same conditions gives a mixture containing benzyl ether and the mixed ether.—Camille Sauvageau: The development of *Colpomentia sinuosa*.—A. Calmette, J. Valtis, and M. Lacomme: The intra-uterine transmission of the tubercle virus from mother to infant. In the course of some grave tuberculous infections, the passage of the tubercle virus from mother to foetus during gestation is less exceptional than has hitherto been supposed.—Bertrand Gambier: The deformation of surfaces and the method of Weingarten.—E. Goursat: Observations on the preceding communication.—Potron: The fundamental theorems of the theory of finite continuous groups of transformations.—R. Wavre and A. Bruttin: A continuous transformation and the existence of an invariant point.—J. Delsarte: Rotations in functional space.—E. F. Collingwood: A theorem on integral functions.—S. Saks: The differentiation of the area of surfaces.—G. Vranceanu: