

from the ground or carry sand which becomes deposited and silts up the beds, and the inroads of such shellfish-eating fish as rays, a species of which, incidentally, carries one stage of the parasite that infects the oyster and so gives rise to pearls.

This is not to say that research in the past has been valueless nor that it is no longer necessary. It is very evident that scientific investigations are of the utmost importance in watching the histories of the various beds and deciding the most economic periods at which to fish them. There would still seem to be room, too, for a more detailed study of the habits and conditions required for the successful development of the oyster in the laboratory on the lines of the work now being carried out by the Ministry of Fisheries in Britain in its oyster research station at Conway.

The fishery in 1925, which appears to have been unfortunate owing to the failure of many divers to arrive at the beginning and to unfavourable weather conditions, brought in a net profit of Rs.1,67,017.

Interesting data on the growth of the pearl oyster are given; information arising from a number of linear measurements and weight determinations tends to lower the previous estimates of the ages of different-sized oysters.

It is gratifying to note that the staff of marine biologists attached to the Ceylon Government is growing, and we hope for much information of interest on tropical marine life in the future. F. S. R.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Prof. A. E. Taylor of the University of Edinburgh has been appointed Leslie Stephen lecturer for the year 1927. Mr. H. Claye, Gonville and Caius College, has been appointed an Assistant Registrar.

Application should be made before June 1 to the Senior Tutor, St. John's College, by any graduate of another university seeking admission as a research student who wishes to be a candidate for the Strathcona Research Studentship of £150 a year at St. John's College.

The entrance scholarships and exhibitions awarded at twelve colleges at the end of last term include 33 for mathematics and 33 for natural sciences out of a total of 169 awards; other awards were 54 for classics, 24 for history, and 21 for modern languages.

LONDON.—The following courses of free public lectures are announced: "Current Views on Internal Secretion," by Prof. Swale Vincent, at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, on Jan. 14, 18, 21, and 25, at 4 o'clock; "Biological Action of Light," by Dr. D. T. Harris, at University College, on Jan. 20 and 27 and Feb. 3, at 5 o'clock; and "Cytology in relation to Physiological Processes," by Dr. R. J. Ludford, at University College, on Jan. 20 and 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, and 24, at 5.30 o'clock.

Mr. E. Matthews has been appointed demonstrator in the Chemistry Department of Guy's Hospital Medical School.

STATISTICS of universities, colleges, and professional schools in the United States are published biennially by the Federal Bureau of Education. In the 913 institutions which figure in the returns for 1923-24, published in *Bulletin* No. 45, 1925, the total number of students enrolled in that year amounted to 726,124, including 268,423 women. Of the 913 institutions, 144 were under public control, and these enrolled 255,630 students, of whom 88,770 were women, whilst privately controlled institutions enrolled 470,494, of whom 179,653 were women. There were also enrolled

189,943 additional students in summer schools, 4012 in winter short courses, and 140,846 in extension and correspondence courses. Turning back to the similar bulletin issued two years ago, one finds that the number of institutions reporting was then only 780. The addition of 133 reports "is due in part to the efforts of field agents of the Bureau of Education, who secured many reports by personal visits." This detracts somewhat from the value of the statistics for purposes of comparison of one period with another, and points to the futility of the comparisons that are sometimes made between the student statistics of different countries.

THE Report for the year 1925 of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Institute of Hygiene, and the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases, contains, in addition to a review by the Director, Lieut.-Col. J. W. D. Megaw, of the work carried out at the School since its opening in November 1920, a list of articles (nearly a hundred) published by members of the staff during the year, separate reports of the specially endowed researches in relation to kala-azar, hookworm, bowel diseases, leprosy, and diabetes, reports by the Superintendent of the Pasteur Institute (which has been so fully employed in the treatment of patients that it was unable to undertake research) and by professors in charge of departments. The School is said to be the only institution in India adequately equipped for post-graduate teaching of tropical medicine and hygiene, and for training young medical research workers, and, as such, it serves the needs of the whole of the Indian Empire. The endowment fund amounted at the end of the year to more than eleven lakhs of rupees (nearly £90,000), and the receipts of the year included an anonymous donation of one lakh of rupees, in addition to handsome contributions by the commercial communities of eastern India and by Indian noblemen and merchants. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs.1,19,904, of which Rs.1,02,834 was on account of salaries.

THE Departmental Committee on Education and Industry appointed by the Minister of Labour and the President of the Board of Education jointly, has issued an interim report dealing with the machinery available "for enabling young persons to enter into and retain suitable employment." The principal elements of this machinery are the juvenile employment committees of those local education authorities which have decided to exercise their powers under the Choice of Employment Act and the juvenile advisory committees appointed by the Ministry of Labour in areas where no such decision has been taken. Since 1921 the administration of unemployment insurance for boys and girls up to the age of 18 years has been linked with the choice of employment work, so that one and the same local authority must be responsible for both. One of the chief recommendations made in this report is that central responsibility for both should likewise be vested in one and the same authority, namely, the Ministry of Labour, instead of being shared, as at present, with the Board of Education. Other recommendations are: To consider the setting up of a National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment, on which local education authorities should be strongly represented; to encourage the application of psychological tests; to cause a special inquiry to be undertaken regarding the transfer of juvenile labour from one area to another; to establish a scheme for juvenile unemployment centres on a permanent basis; and not to permit either recourse to compulsion to secure the attendance of unemployed juveniles of 14 years and 15 years at courses of instruction, or the payment of maintenance allowances to juveniles attending unemployment centres or other approved courses.