

if any systematic variations do in fact exist, must be very small, and the effect of a variation of the intensity of solar radiation upon terrestrial atmospheric processes is likely to be complex.

Another negative or almost negative result of some practical importance relates to the varying degrees of storminess experienced in different years in the Far East. Visher has studied the question as to whether unusual storminess in the early part of a storm season is an index to the probable storminess of the remaining part of that season, and finds that the storminess of June is little or no index, whereas that of July may be of some value. There seems, in general, to be some slight positive correlation between the number of cyclones in one month and the number in the remaining months of the season. This applies to the Far East as a whole, and not to one particular district. It should be noted, however, that variations in the completeness of the information about the number of storms that occur each year would give rise to a spurious positive correlation.

There are many other items of interest in this work which cannot be discussed here, among them a section on the effect of cyclones on the dispersal of life from island to island in the Pacific. The bibliography is very extensive, containing 209 references to other works and articles, and to interviews with other meteorologists.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

EDINBURGH.—We have already announced the gift to the University by the International Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation of a sum of £74,000 for the purpose of assisting towards the establishment of a new Department of Zoology. Of this sum, £38,000 is set aside towards the cost of building, £10,000 is for equipment, and £26,000 for endowment. The University already had available from the gift of the late Dr. Laurence Pullar and from the Carnegie Trust a sum of £41,000 towards the cost of the building. The work will be proceeded with at once, and plans will be prepared by Sir Robert Lorimer in consultation with Prof. J. H. Ashworth. The new Department will be at the King's Buildings on the south side of the city, adjacent to the Departments of Chemistry and Geology.

LONDON.—The Laboratory of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at University College is to be named "The Cowdray Laboratory of Civil and Mechanical Engineering," in recognition of Lord Cowdray's generous gifts, amounting to £20,000, to the Faculty of Engineering at the College.

The title of reader in geology in the University has been conferred on Mr. George McDonald Davies, in respect of the post held by him at Birkbeck College. Mr. Davies studied at Birkbeck College. From 1908 until 1920 he was assistant, and latterly senior assistant, in the Mineral Laboratory of the Imperial Institute, and from 1906–20 he held part-time posts at Birkbeck College. Since 1920 he has been head of the Department of Geology at Birkbeck College. His published work includes "Elementary Crystallography" (with Dr. J. W. Evans, 1924), "Tin Ores" (1919), and numerous papers in geological journals.

The following degrees have been conferred:—D.Sc. in botany on Miss Nesta Ferguson (King's College and Royal Holloway College) for a thesis entitled "The *Aloineæ*—a Cytological Study, with especial reference to the Form and Size of Chromosomes"; D.Sc. in chemistry on Mr. J. W. Cook (University College and the Sir John Cass Technical Institute) for a thesis entitled "The Reactivity of *meso*-substituted Anthracenes"; on Mr. S. B. Dutt (Imperial College

(Royal College of Science)), for a thesis entitled "(1) A Theory of Colour on the Basis of Molecular Strain. The Effect of Chromophoric Superposition; (2) Ring-chain Tautomerism, Parts I. and II."; and on Mr. W. G. Shilling (East London College), for a thesis entitled "The Temperature Coefficient of the Molecular Heats of Gases"; D.Sc. in statistics on Mr. Kazutaro Yasukawa (University College), for a thesis entitled "Contributions to the Mathematical Theory of Statistics." D.Sc. (*Economics*) on Miss M. C. Buer (London School of Economics), for a thesis entitled "Health, Wealth and Population in the Early Days of the Industrial Revolution"; D.Sc. (*Engineering*) on Mr. W. D. Dye, for a theses entitled "(1) The Piezo-Electric Quartz Resonator and its Equivalent Electric Circuit; (2) A Self-contained Harmonic Wavemeter," and other papers.

A SPECIAL course of seven lectures on modern developments in regard to fuel is to be delivered at the Sir John Cass Technical Institute, Jewry Street, Aldgate, London, E.C.3, on Mondays at 6 P.M., beginning on Feb. 7. The lecturers include Mr. F. S. Sinnatt on low temperature carbonisation and Prof. J. S. S. Brame on liquid fuel.

THE Ellen Richards Research Prize of the value of 2000 dollars is being offered for award in 1928 "to a woman of any nation on the basis of distinguished scientific research." In countries where there is a national federation of university women this federation may appoint a committee of experts to nominate candidates. Where there is no such federation, nominations may be made by individual women holding university positions. Federations may each nominate three candidates, individuals one. Nominations must be in the hands of the committee before Jan. 15, 1928. Applications for information, circulars, or nomination forms should be sent to the secretary, Mrs. Samuel F. Clarke, Williamstown, Mass., U.S.A.

THE Free Place Scholarships Examination, 1926, in the County of Kent, formed the subject of a special investigation conducted, at the request of the Education Committee, by Mr. Andrew Bell. The results of the investigation have been published in a 55-page pamphlet obtainable from the Director of Education, Springfield, Maidstone (price 1s. post free). The examination, which is, in Kent, controlled in each secondary school district by the school headmaster, includes—in addition to a written examination, consisting of English, arithmetic, and intelligence test, for which the maximum total marks assignable are 250—an oral test carrying, as a maximum, 100 marks. The Kent County Association of Teachers put forward as one of a series of recommendations, which led to the demand for a special inquiry, a proposal that the oral part of the examination should carry as many marks as the written examination, and one of the objects of Mr. Bell's inquiry was to determine whether this proposal should be adopted. The chapter of the report dealing with this question is of special interest in view of its bearing on the pronouncements of the Board of Education Consultative Committee in paragraph 80 of its report on psychological tests of educable capacity, wherein emphasis is very strongly laid on the value of oral interviews as a means of discovering latent ability and promise. Mr. Bell's conclusion is that in the present state of our knowledge regarding the technique of the interview, it is undesirable that the marks for the oral examination (which each headmaster has full liberty to conduct according to his own ideas) should be increased.