some light and comfortable pairs of horns, the use of which by deaf people will probably become more general in future.

Another exhibit of medical interest was the "Magic Blanket," produced by the Radiocoil Electromagnetic Blanket, Ltd., of Manchester Street, London, W.1. This blanket has more than 12,000 feet of specially prepared wire covered with downy material, the inner surface being thickly quilted. Its use is recommended by the makers for sufferers from various diseases. An induction pad is also provided to be used in conjunction with the blanket. This pad gives a rise of temperature in the blanket from 50° to 130° F. in sixty minutes, and profuse perspiration is obtained in forty-five minutes.

The Linguaphone Institute exhibited gramophone records for learning foreign languages. These records reproduce the speech of well-known elocutionists in various languages. The advantages of this simple method of learning foreign languages are obvious, and it is not surprising to learn that the records are used by more than 900 schools, colleges, and universities.

These few notes by no means exhaust the exhibits of scientific interest. The catalogue shows in the section of "Chemical and Allied Products" that a large number of British firms are engaged in the production of chemicals, drugs, dyes, fertilisers, insecticides, perfumes, and photographic materials. Makers of scientific and optical instruments are also well represented.

The Fair was visited by the King and Queen, and attracted a large number of buyers and other visitors.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. Ramsay, Master of Magdalene College, and Mr. Thirkill, Clare College, have been elected members of the Council of the Senate. Prof. W. J. Dakin, of the University of Liverpool, has been nominated to use the University table at Naples next April, and Mr. J. Gray, King's College, to use the University table at the laboratory of the Marine Biological Association at Plymouth next July.

EDINBURGH.—At the meeting of the University Court on Monday, Feb. 21, Dr. R. J. Clark was appointed lecturer, and Carnegie teaching fellow, in the Department of Natural Philosophy.

It was announced that Mr. Thomas Cowan had offered a sum of £15,000, supplementary to previous gifts, in order to enable the University to carry out a projected scheme for providing a residential house for men-students. Mr. Cowan has already given £15,000 to the University, £10,000 of which was contributed in appreciation of the work done by students during the general strike of 1926.

LONDON.—Five addresses, spread over the period February-June, have been arranged as part of the centenary celebrations of University College. The speakers include Prof. E. H. Starling, on "A Century of Physiology" on Feb. 28, and Sir Oliver Lodge, on Mar. 14, at 8.30 P.M., on "A Century's Progress in Physics."

MANCHESTER.—The Council has accepted the resignation of Prof. W. W. C. Topley from the chair of bacteriology and the directorship of the public health laboratory as from September next, when he will take up his duties as professor of bacteriology and immunology in the new London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Mr. W. O. Howarth, lecturer in botany, has been appointed to supervise research in mycology under the scheme of the British Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. Mr. H. G. Chippindale has been appointed research assistant in mycology under the same scheme.

Calendar of Discovery and Invention.

March 7, 1785.—Among the landmarks in the history of geology was the publication of James Hutton's "Theory of the Earth: or an Investigation of the Laws observable in the Composition, Dissolution, and Restoration of Land upon the Globe," read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh on Mar. 7 and April 4, 1785. It attracted little attention at the time, but ten years later Hutton published his views in two volumes, and in 1802 Playfair wrote his "Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth."

March 8, 1618.—Searching for a simple relation which would connect the distances of the planets with their times of revolution, Kepler found after long calculation that the square of the time in which a planet revolves round the sun is proportional to the cube of the average distance of the planet. This, he said, first occurred to him on Mar. 8, 1618, and two months later he recognised the absolute truth of a principle for which he had been searching for seventeen years.

March 9, 1720.—Halley succeeded Flamsteed as Astronomer Royal.

March 9, 1862.—A fight which revolutionised sea warfare took place in Hampton Roads, U.S.A., on Mar. 9, 1862. The *Monitor*, Ericsson's famous ship, there met the *Merrimac*. The *Monitor*, "a fort upon a raft," carried two 11-inch guns in a revolving turret. The *Merrimac*, a converted 40-gun frigate, had six 9-inch, two 7-inch, and two 6-inch guns. The fight was in the nature of a duel and was inconclusive, but from that time dates the introduction of the turret, advocated by Ericsson in America and Cowper Coles in England.

March 10, 1809.—Founded in 1807, the Geological Society at first took the form of a dining club, and some members wished that it should be regarded as an assistant association of the Royal Society. This, however, did not meet with general approval, and on Mar. 10, 1809, a resolution was passed "that any proposition tending to render this Society dependent upon or subservient to any other society does not correspond with the conceptions the meeting entertains of the original principles upon which the Geological Society was founded."

March 12, 1683.—Geological maps were first suggested by Martin Lister, who on Mar. 12, 1683, read to the Royal Society "An ingenious proposal for a new sort of Maps of Countrys, etc."

March 12, 1782.—Watt's grand improvements in the steam engines were set down in four patents. His first patent contained the important inventions of the separate condenser and air-pump; his second describes devices for obtaining rotary motion. The date of the third patent is Mar. 12, 1782, and in this he makes a claim for a double acting engine and for using the steam expansively. To these several improvements he added the throttle valve, the parallel motion, the centrifugal governor, and the indicator.

March 12, 1884.—Two pioneers whose efforts gave a great impetus to the utilisation of electric energy were John Dixon Gibbs and Lucien Gaulard. In Paris in 1881 they produced a "secondary generator," an improved form of which was patented on Mar. 12, 1884. Their system of distribution was used in London in a portion of the Metropolitan Railway, and also for lighting Regent Street and Oxford Street. Though when judged by present-day standards their secondary generators appear crude pieces of apparatus, they were the forerunners of the present-day transformers. E. C. S.