being too vast to consider briefly, Dr. Marett was content to examine a single specimen of the proofs on which Prof. Elliot Smith relies, namely, his contention that the earliest conception of a deity arose out of certain beliefs connecting the cowry shell with the female principle. Here 'earliest' can scarcely mean more than 'earliest known,' in view of the notorious imperfection of the historical record. Even so, it is possible to cite from palæolithic Europe only, a variety of practices of seemingly ceremonial intention suggesting that the idea of deity may have had many other sources than the one alleged. What Prof. Elliot Smith puts forward with assurance is thus at best a more or less plausible hypothesis which needs to be framed with all due reservations and precautions.

As to the all-sufficing efficacy of the diffusionist method, there is uncertainty at this point within the diffusionist school itself, seeing that Dr. Rivers was for assigning the last word in cultural anthropology to psychology, though only after the study of cultural diffusion had been more fully developed. But surely there is a present need of psychological analysis as applied to primitive culture as we meet with it under existing conditions. Diffusionism offers us merely an exterior history of culture, a number of particular events following one on the other without apparent rhyme or reason. Psychology alone can supply the general law or tendency that brings the particular facts into relation. It alone, therefore, can furnish the hypothetical bridge that leads to the discovery of fresh particulars of the same kind by enabling their real character to be recognised. Prof. Elliot Smith can be shown constantly to assume psychological principles in his account of the diffusion of culture; but since he is unconscious of so doing, his psychology is uncritical and, therefore, crude.

Stated temperately and with a due sense of the difficulties, Dr. Marett is of opinion that Prof. Elliot Smith's theory of Egyptian influence deserves the most careful attention, but the present dogmatic assertions of the diffusionist school are out of place.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Prof. J. A. Fleming, Prof. G. F. Stout, and Prof. A. E. H. Love have been elected honorary fellows of St. John's College.

Mr. A. Amos, Downing College, has been reappointed director of the University farm for five years. Various fresh lectureships in mathematics, agriculture, physics, engineering, and economics will be established. Some of these represent steps in completion of the changes from the old conditions to the present ones under the new Statutes.

The report of the Faculty Board of Archæology and Anthropology mentions considerable additions of interest to the collections in the Museum of Ethnology. These include a number of objects of the dolmen age from Portugal and Brittany, presented by Mr. L. C. G. Clarke, English pygmy implements from the Pennine region presented by Mr. F. Buckley, Baron von Hügel's Tongan collection, a magnificent Hindu Indian totem-pole, 45 feet high, and a Kwakintl Indian house-pole in the form of a grizzly bear, presented by Dr. Glaisher, and various bequests already mentioned in these columns.

LONDON.—The title of reader in geometry in the University has been conferred on Mr. J. L. S. Hatton in respect of the post he holds at East London College. Mr. Hatton studied at Hertford College, Oxford, and for two years was demonstrator at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford. Since 1896 he has been Principal of East London College and head of the Mathematical Department.

PROF. D. A. GILCHRIST, professor of agriculture at Armstrong College (University of Durham), Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Director of the Northumberland Agricultural Experiment Station at Cockle Park, having reached the age-limit, has resigned. Prof. Gilchrist is best known for his Cockle Park experiments on the use of phosphatic manures and wild white clover for grassland.

THE annual general meeting of the Association of Technical Institutions was held in the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, on Feb. 25-26. The incoming president, Lord Riddell, chose as the subject for a racy address "The Business Climate." He believed that the causes of good and bad trade are just as capable of scientific discovery as are the causes of climatic change; and, in the case of trade, he regarded education and organisation as the means of coming nearer to a state of affairs less charged with uncertainty and error. An important section of the Association's annual report showed that in most institutions there is available a very limited number of books of a technical nature, and, in some cases, what there are appear to be out of date and of no real value. Some six schools reported a provision of £200 per annum for additions and renewals, but in the great majority of institutions the average expenditure is £20-£30 per annum. In order to direct attention to such serious defects in the distribution of technical literature an analysis of questionnaire results was sent to the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux which promoted the reading of a paper dealing with the matter at a recent meeting at Oxford. "The Technical Training of Students for the Worsted and Woollen Industry" (by Prof. E. Midgley); "The Value and Functions of Advisory Committees in Technical Education" (by Mr. G. F. O'Riordan); "The Technical Training of Students for the Cotton Trade" (by Mr. W. Wilkinson): these titles of some of the papers read during the conference will indicate the subjects round which valuable discussion centred. A paper by Mr. J. R. Riddell described excellent work in connexion with training for the printing industry, but was somewhat marred by a singularly imperfect conception of the complementary nature of the contributions to be made to education by industrialists and "well-intending but theoretical educationalists."

IN view of the growing importance of technical education, a paper by Principal J. F. S. Ross, read at the recent meeting of the Association of Technical Institutions, was especially valuable. Dealing with "Some Problems of the Smaller (Technical) Institution," he directed attention to the problem of an institution which has to be staffed by visiting teachers. The method certainly has the advantage of securing specialists who, during the day, are engaged in the trade or profession for which, in the evening, they prepare their students. There are, however, many disadvantages: efficiency and the corporate life of the school are handicapped not because the visiting teacher lacks quality, but because his work is restricted and limited by the essential conditions of his appointment. As part of the solution of the difficulty, Mr. Ross considered that every department of a technical institution which promotes a full-time senior grouped course covering three years should have at least one full-time teacher. The chief obstacle to such an arrangement lies in the present superannuation regulations; but Mr. Ross's paper showed clearly not only the equity of an alteration of these regulations, but also the enhancement of the value of technical education which would result.