

specially resistant capillary tubes being determined directly to one-thousandth part of a millimetre. Comparison tubes were, of course, always used. It was noteworthy that the pure liquid, for example, acetic acid, does not reach its normal value until three weeks after filling the tube, the process of boiling to remove air clearly causing dissociation. Thus, after 2 days the molecular weight was  $1.568 \times 60$ , and after 3 weeks or 9 months,  $2.097 \times 60$ . Heating for a short period in most cases increased the molecular complexity, whilst heating for a long period decreased it. The catalyst, which gave a molecular weight value for acetic acid (measured after 3 weeks) of  $2.525 \times 60$ , did not immediately produce its maximum effect on the complexity of the molecules.

Prof. Baker considers that all liquids may be regarded as analogous to a dissociable gas such as nitrogen tetroxide, the processes of association and dissociation, however, being much slower for liquids than for gases. The effect of the presence of solid catalysts, as would be expected, is much slower for the liquid than for the gaseous condition, and it is difficult to understand how their special influence is exerted. The president acknowledged the help given to him by his assistant, Miss Margaret Carlton, who has done a considerable portion of the experimental work.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. V. Gordon Childe has been appointed by the University Court as the first occupant of the Abercromby chair of archæology. This chair was founded in 1925 in accordance with a provision for its endowment in the will of the late Lord Abercromby, the well-known archæologist and authority on the pottery of the bronze age in Britain. Mr. Childe was educated at the University of Sydney, where, after taking his M.A. degree, he was awarded a classical scholarship tenable at Oxford. He became a member of Queen's College, Oxford, in 1914, took his B.Litt. in 1916, and a first class in the honours school of *Literæ Humaniores* in 1917. After a short period spent in Australia, Mr. Childe returned to England, and since then has been engaged in archæological research and has acted as librarian of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He has published a number of papers in archæological periodicals and two books of great erudition and originality in the *History of Civilisation Series*—"The Dawn of European Civilisation" and "The Aryans."

LEEDS.—The Miners' Welfare Committee has offered a contribution of £10,000 towards the cost of erection of a new building for the Mining Department of the University. This shares with the Department of Coal Gas and Fuel Industries a building which was erected in 1906, but now, owing to the growth of both departments, it has become inadequate. The Department has received loyal support from the industry. Since 1899 the West Yorkshire Coal Owners' Association has made an annual grant, and has recently contributed £25,000 to the University Development Fund, while contributions from individual members of the mining industry amount to more than £2500. The support thus given by the industry may not improbably result in the Mining Department being the first part of the building scheme to be undertaken.

LONDON.—Mr. W. E. Le Gros Clark has been appointed as from Sept. 1 to the University chair of anatomy tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. In 1924 Mr. Clark was awarded the Hunterian Medal for anatomical research, and was elected a member of the Board of Examiners for the

Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. He has published numerous contributions on the skulls of primates in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society*, *Journal of Anatomy*, and similar publications.

Dr. Hamilton Hartridge has been appointed as from Sept. 1 to the University chair of physiology tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. Dr. Hartridge has been a fellow of King's College, Cambridge, since 1912, and was awarded the Horton Smith Prize in 1918. Since 1919 he has been lecturer on organs of special sense and senior demonstrator in physiology at the Physiology Laboratories, Cambridge. He has published numerous papers in *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, 1922-25, *Philosophical Magazine*, 1923, and the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society*.

The following Doctorates have been conferred: D.Sc. in statistics on Mr. A. E. R. Church (University College), for a thesis entitled "On the Means and Squared Standard Deviations of small Samples from any Population"; D.Sc. in physics on Dr. R. C. Johnson, for a thesis entitled "The Structure and Origin of the Swan Band Spectrum of Carbon," and other papers.

OXFORD.—The Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies has arranged a special course of zoology, primarily for teachers of science in secondary schools, on Aug. 2-12. The course, which is part of the annual summer meeting organised by the Delegacy, will deal mainly with recent developments in zoology. Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from the Rev. F. E. Hutchinson, Acland House, Broad Street, Oxford.

THE annual value of the Beit memorial fellowships for medical research has been increased and will take effect as from October 1 next. An election of junior fellows will take place in July next. Applications upon a prescribed form must be sent on or before June 1 to Sir James K. Fowler, Honorary Secretary, Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research, 35 Clarges Street, W.1.

THE Air Council has decided to increase the number of prize cadetships in the Royal Air Force offered for competition annually from three to twelve. These cadetships enable boys to complete the two years' course at the R.A.F. Cadet College, Cranwell, at a cost of only £40 in all to their parents. Candidates are selected at an examination held by the Civil Service Commission in June and November; they must be between 17½ and 19½ years of age, and must be in possession of School Certificate A or B. Applications for the June examination must reach the Civil Service Commission on or before May 4. Further information can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Air Ministry, London. W.C.2.

THE list of "Students from other Countries in the Universities and University Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland in October 1926," issued by the Universities Bureau of the British Empire (50 Russell Square, London, W.C.1), contains more than its title suggests. It is a register of the names of students from other countries attending each institution of university rank, and may appear, therefore, to have either the virtues or vices of a public card-index according to the purpose or predilection of the person seeking the type of information afforded by a list of actual names. It is to be noted, however, that on one page the number of students from each country is set out. The following extracts from that page may not be without significance: Africa, 1054; America, 824; Asia, 1754; Europe, 643; The Pacific, 321.