

uniform movement, and sometimes give in successive experiments uniform movements of different speeds. No doubt such mixtures are very sensitive to slight changes in the application of the igniting flame and the possible setting up of turbulence, and the length of the tube might affect the result.

Experiments to test the speed-law with blends of an ethylene-oxygen and a methane-oxygen mixture respectively with an hydrogen-oxygen mixture gave results which fell progressively below the predicted rates according as the hydrogen mixture was increased in the blend. It has been pointed out, on the other hand, that the rate of chemical change (and therefore the spread of the flame) is subject to the law of mass-action; the curve predicted by the speed-law diverging from the experimental speeds as the combustible gas approaches the upper limit of propagation. The speed-law has some exceptions, evidently: do they prove the rule?

In Part 3, Prof. Bone (with Messrs. Fraser and Witt) shows photographs of the initiation of the explosion of an equal mixture of methane and oxygen in the centre of a closed tube under the influence of sparks varying in character and intensity. With the feeblest sparks there seems to be a short period of 'induction' with no visible flame; then a 'ghost-like' flame spreads with acceleration until it is checked before it reaches the ends of the tube, and finally there is the intense illumination traversing the whole column of gas in waves from end to end. With the intenser sparks the flame spreads at once and luminous striæ describe wavy paths within the ghost-like flame. The very luminous waves are caused by reflections from the closed ends: they are not shown when the ends of the tube are opened before firing. The powerful sparks evidently provoke rapid combustion in their neighbourhood.

A University Centre in London.

A MOST important announcement in relation to the future of university education in London was made at the Graduation Dinner of the University on May 11. Aided by a grant from the Government and a generous gift from the Rockefeller Foundation, the university has been able to arrange for the purchase of the Bloomsbury site of 11 acres, including roads, or 8½ acres excluding roads, north of the British Museum. This site was purchased by the Government in 1920 and offered to the University under conditions which the University was unable to accept, with the result that after five years the site was re-sold to the vendor, the Duke of Bedford, in accordance with the terms of the conveyances.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Beveridge, indicated some of the purposes for which the site will be used, including University offices, Senate House, Library, Ceremonial Hall, Examination Hall, the Institute of Historical Research, a Faculty Club for Teachers, a Students' Union, O.T.C. Headquarters, perhaps one or two colleges, and finally, the beginning of residential quarters for teachers and students. He described in eloquent terms his vision of the future University of London, and appealed for the inspired artist who would embody it in stone and steel, "who will bring into the very heart of London a group of buildings that, raising their towers and pinnacles to the sky, will form a shrine of youth and learning in Bloomsbury to rank with the shrine of our history and our liberties by the Thames at Westminster." Lord Eustace Percy, President of the Board of Education, who was the guest of honour at the dinner, said that the announcement marked a great and historic moment in the history of the

University. It will be generally hoped that the change of home will mean a change of heart, and that the feuds and wrangles of the past will soon become a fading memory. "The final decision," the Vice-Chancellor said, "was unanimous and is a pledge of unity for the future."

As to new developments for scientific research, no information was forthcoming. The general policy of university research institutes is still an open question, the discussion of which should now, however, take a new orientation; and a claim to part of the site will no doubt be advanced on behalf of sciences for which at present research facilities are inadequate. Provision should also be made for public university lectures. Referring to the financial position, the Vice-Chancellor said that, after purchasing the site, there was money in hand for the Central Offices. "The rest must wait for further help." The amount of the munificent contribution from the Rockefeller Foundation was not divulged.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—By the will of the late Prof. A. W. Scott, of Lampeter College, the University is to receive £7000 and a third of the residue of his estate, approximately a further £4000, for the furtherance of physical science.

Sir Josiah Stamp will deliver the Rede Lecture on June 8 on "Stimulus in the Economic Life." Prof. A. E. Taylor, of Edinburgh, will deliver the Leslie Stephen Lecture on June 3, on "David Hume and the Miraculous."

Mr. J. E. Purvis, Corpus Christi College, has been re-appointed University lecturer in chemistry and physics in their application to hygiene, and Mr. A. Hopkinson, Emmanuel College, has been re-appointed demonstrator of anatomy.

LONDON.—Applications are invited for the University studentship in physiology, value £50, which is open to a student qualified to undertake research in physiology. The latest date for the receipt of applications by the Academic Registrar, South Kensington, S.W.7, is May 31.

MANCHESTER.—An anonymous donor has given about £5000 for the endowment of two post-graduate scholarships for research in plant and animal biology.

OXFORD.—The University statutes have been modified to enable the committee for advanced studies to make grants of money for equipment needed by students for the degree of B.Sc.

The great and rapid development of the School of Rural Economy and of the various agricultural institutes affiliated to it from 1908, when it began with a modest grant of £800, to the present time when it has received a total grant of £44,000, has determined the passing of a new statute to redefine and strengthen the functions and powers of the Committee for Rural Economy. The Committee will have general control of the available funds, and will appoint directors and research officers for the two institutes for research in agricultural economics and agricultural engineering and for the advisory institute.

A new medical travelling studentship has been founded in memory of Dr. George H. Hunt. The value will be somewhat less than £100 every other year. Candidates must be graduates in medicine who shall have not exceeded five years from the date of passing their final M.B. examination; they will be expected to travel abroad for a period of not less than three months for clinical study or medical research, and eventually to engage in practice as surgeons or as general practitioners.