

PROF. C. A. EDWARDS, professor of metallurgy and acting-principal of the University College of Swansea, has been appointed Principal of the College in succession to Dr. Sibly. Prof. Edwards will continue to act as professor of metallurgy and will supervise the work of honours students and direct research in the department.

APPLICATIONS are invited by the London County Council for two Robert Blair fellowships in applied science and technology, each of the value of £450 and tenable for one year. Applicants must be British subjects and not less than twenty-one years of age. Particulars and application forms (T.2.a./300) are obtainable from the Education Officer (T.2.a.), the County Hall, S.E.1. Forms must be returned by June 18.

THE Ramsay Memorial Fellowship Trustees will consider, at the end of June, applications for a Ramsay Memorial Fellowship for chemical research. The value of the fellowship will be £250 per annum, to which may be added a grant for expenses not exceeding £50 per annum. Applications must be received not later than June 6. Full particulars as to the conditions of the award are obtainable from the Secretary, Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trust, University College, London (Gower Street, W.C.1).

At a meeting of Armstrong College Council held on May 16, the resignation was accepted with regret of Prof. J. W. Bews, professor of botany. Prof. Bews, who came to Armstrong College from University College, Natal, in January 1926, has found the English climate unduly trying for both his wife and himself after fifteen years' residence in South Africa, and he is returning to his old post in Natal. The Council has appointed Mr. J. W. Harvey to be professor of philosophy in succession to Prof. A. S. Ferguson, now Regius professor of logic in the University of Aberdeen. Mr. Harvey, who is at present a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Birmingham, was educated at Rugby and Balliol College, Oxford; he has also studied in Berlin and Marburg. He is the English translator and editor of Prof. Rudolf Otto's "Das Heilige," which appeared under the title "The Idea of the Holy," and has collaborated with others in a small book entitled "Competition: A Study in Human Motives," published in 1913. Mr. Harvey is a member of the Society of Friends.

THE project of a university college at Hull, and the steps taken towards realising it, are described by the principal—Prof. A. E. Morgan, formerly of the University of Sheffield—in the April number of the *University Bulletin*. It is hoped that building operations will be started during the summer of this year, but it is doubtful whether the college will be ready to open its doors to students before 1929. The issue also contains an exceedingly interesting letter from Prof. G. S. Brett, of the University of Toronto, on university education in Canada. "The two vital questions seem," he says, "to be numbers and politics. If numbers steadily increase a special effort must be made to distinguish between genuine students and those who merely 'go through' the university. This effort will depend in the last resort on the attitude of those who pay the bill; if they have wisdom and know the value of educational ideals for a country, the otherwise inevitable degeneration will be avoided." The operations of the Anglo-German Academic Board in developing a system of interchange of university graduate students between Germany and England are described, and the address of the president of the Association sums up the work standing to the credit of the Association.

Calendar of Discovery and Invention.

May 22, 1724.—The total solar eclipse which occurred on May 22, 1724 (May 11, O.S.), was the last total eclipse seen in England. A copy of Halley's map of the path of the shadow crossing Ireland, south-west England, France, and southern Germany is to be seen in the Astronomical Gallery at the Science Museum. The eclipse was observed by Maraldi and J. Cassini at Trianon and by Delisle at Paris. At Trianon the period of totality was 2 minutes 16 seconds. Venus, Mercury, and a few of the fixed stars were visible to the naked eye, and it was noted that "a corona of light was seen to encompass the dark body of the moon during the totality of the eclipse." According to a note in *NATURE* of April 29, 1875, p. 507, an account of the eclipse was given in Stukeley's "Itinerarium Curiosum."

May 22, 1735.—Though Galileo, Halley, and Hooke had discussed the air currents of the world, George Hadley was the first to study adequately the direction of these currents, his views being given to the Royal Society on May 22, 1735, in a paper entitled "Concerning the cause of the General Trade Winds." It was, however, many years before the value of his writings was recognised.

May 24, 1753.—Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish naturalist, published the first portion of his celebrated "Species Plantarum," in which he brought into use his "nomina trivialia," or two names, generic and specific, in place of the cumbrous sentences previously employed; the first part consisted of pages 1-560; the rest came out in the month of August.

May 24, 1844.—In 1843 the Senate of the United States voted 30,000 dollars to enable Morse to erect an experimental electric telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore. On May 24, 1844, the first public exhibition of the working of this line took place. Sitting in the Supreme Court of the Capitol in Washington, Morse signalled the words, "What hath God wrought," the message being received and repeated by Alfred Vail at Baltimore.

May 25, 1812.—Davy's beneficent work on the study of mine explosions and the invention of the miner's safety lamp were the direct outcome of the disastrous explosion at Felling Colliery, Sunderland, on May 25, 1812, when 92 lives were lost.

May 26, 1798.—Among many ingenious methods of raising water is that of the hydraulic ram devised by John Whitehurst of Cheapside about 1770, but improved and made automatic by Montgolfier, who patented it in France on May 26, 1798, and was awarded a gold medal at the French Exposition of 1802.

May 27, 1846.—For many centuries the only explosive in use was gunpowder. The first of the modern explosives to be introduced was gun-cotton, discovered by Schönbein and described by him to the Scientific Society of Basle on May 27, 1846. There are, however, earlier references to it in Schönbein's letters to Faraday. In October 1846 the British Government voted £1500 for experiments with the new explosive.

May 28, 1898.—Among the important investigations carried out at the Royal Institution, few have surpassed in interest those on the liquefaction of gases initiated by Faraday in 1823 and continued sixty years later by Dewar. Cailletet first saw liquid oxygen in 1877, and Olszewski also liquefied it in 1883. Fifteen years later, on May 28, 1898, Dewar obtained liquid hydrogen, and the following year at the centenary celebration of the Royal Institution gave a demonstration of his methods.

E. C. S.