

in Oxford, but preserves to us Wren's plan for a scientific institution.

With singular appropriateness Oxford is therefore able to accept this memorial window to one of her most distinguished sons of science from the Royal Institute of British Architects. For long before the chance of rebuilding London definitely turned the scientific worker into the architect, Wren had filled the highest scientific post in the University with laudable distinction, and when the Ashmolean Museum was in building he occupied the presidential chair of the Royal Society.

The Tradescant window was presented by the Garden Clubs of Virginia in memory of his great prestige as a gardener and of his fruitful visits to their colony. It was unveiled by Lord Fairfax of Cameron in November last. The Ashmole window is given by the principal and fellows of Brasenose College, of which Ashmole was a member during his sojourn in Oxford. The badge and supporters to the coat of arms, the head of Mercury and the figures of the constellation of the Twins, are emblematic of Ashmole's double interest in astrology and alchemy, with especial regard to Mercury, planet and chemical element. The design has been taken from one of his most treasured books now in the Bodleian Library.

The inscription runs :

ELIAE ASHMOLE
HUIUS MUSEI FUNDATORI
COLL. AEN. NAS. PRINCIPALIS ET SOCI
ALUMNO SUO HANC FENESTRAM DEDICAVERT
MCMXXV.

The right-hand upper light records the distinguished service of Ashmole's first Keeper of the Museum, Dr. Robert Plot, one of the most remarkable of the Oxford celebrities of his time. He received his early education at University College, whence he proceeded to Magdalen Hall, and when thirty-seven years of age published his "Natural History of Oxfordshire," the work which not only made him famous but also probably suggested Oxford as the best destination for the Tradescant-Ashmole collections. His "Natural History" certainly was the first of its kind, and became the model for many later works. On the strength of a testimonial from John Evelyn, Ashmole in 1683 appointed Plot as his first Keeper of the Museum, a position that he filled for seven years, combining the duties with those of professor of chemistry and of secretary to the Philosophical Society of Oxford.

Towards the end of his life, Plot, elected to the office of Mowbray Herald, seems to have adopted the coat of arms in the new window. The surrounding wreath is of two Oxfordshire flowers which Plot was the first to recognise as new to the British flora. They are the marsh violet (*Viola palustris*) and the "Greatest Dove's foot Crane's-bill with dissected leaves" (*Geranium dissectum*). The happy dedicatory inscription runs :

ROBERTUS PLOT R.S.S.
HUNC CELEBRANT COLLEGIA NOMEN ET ARTEM
TRADITA MUSEI EST PRIMO CUSTODIA PRIMI.

In the right-hand lower light are emblazoned the arms and crest of Sir Christopher Wren, with two swags of foliage and contemporary scientific instruments familiar to astronomers and navigators at the time when, as Savilian professor of astronomy, Wren doubtless taught their theory to his pupils. The instruments comprise the mariner's astrolabe, cross-staff, backstaff, astronomical ring dial, and nocturnal, all very carefully studied and drawn upon the glass. Of special interest is the drawing of Wren's own pair of compasses,

now in the possession of the Royal Society, and the only example of his many instruments that has come down to us. A cartouche below contains the dedicatory inscription recording the circumstances of the presentation of this window by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

CHRISTOPHERUM WREN

ASTRONOMIAE PROFESSOREM SAVILLIANUM
COELESTIBUS EXSTRUCTIONIBUS NOBILEM COMMORAVIT
REGALIS SOCIETAS ARCHITECTORUM BRITANNICORUM
MCMXXVII

In a letter to the *Times* for May 23, the anniversary of Ashmole's birthday, Mr. E. B. Knobel expresses the hope that these armorial windows may be supplemented by one to Dr. Lewis Evans, whose gift has led to the revival of the Old Ashmolean.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. G. F. C. Searle, Peterhouse, has been reappointed University lecturer in experimental physics, and Mr. C. Warburton, Christ's College, has been reappointed demonstrator in medical entomology.

LONDON.—At a meeting of the Senate on May 18, the Vice-Chancellor stated that with reference to the anonymous offer, already announced, of £10,000 towards the establishment of a chair of dietetics, Messrs. A. Wander, Ltd., had now intimated their desire to contribute a similar sum to the same object.

It was announced that a donor who desires to remain anonymous has offered £250 as a contribution towards any preliminary expenses involved in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development of the Bloomsbury site.

Mr. D. MacC. Blair, lecturer in regional anatomy in the University of Glasgow, has been appointed as from Aug. 1 to the University chair of anatomy tenable at King's College.

Dr. G. S. Wilson has been appointed as from Oct. 1 to the University readership in bacteriology and immunology tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Wilson was educated at Epsom College, King's College, London, and Charing Cross Hospital. In 1919 he was appointed specialist in bacteriology at the Royal Army Medical College; in 1921 he became assistant in bacteriology under the Medical Research Council. In 1923 was appointed lecturer in bacteriology in the University of Manchester, and since 1925 he has been assistant director of the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

The following doctorates were conferred: D.Sc. in Botany on Mr. P. Sarbadhikari (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for a thesis entitled "Cytology of *Osmunda* and *Doodia*—On the Gametophyte and Post-meiotic Mitoses of the Gametophytic Tissue of *Doodia*;" and D.Sc. (Economics) on Mr. G. C. W. C. Wheeler (London School of Economics) for a thesis entitled "Mono-Alu Folklore."

The Dunn Exhibitions in anatomy and physiology were awarded to Mr. K. M. Robertson, of St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.

THE Society for the Advancement of the Training of Mechanics, Leyden, announces vacation courses for mechanics and glassblowers in August next at the Physical (Cryogenic) Laboratory of the University of Leyden. Full particulars can be obtained from Dr. C. A. Crommelin, the Physical Laboratory, Leyden, Holland.

By the will of Lady (Charles) Henry, of Carlton Gardens, London, S.W., a large sum of money will become available for the foundation of scholarships

at Oxford and Cambridge for American students and at Harvard and Yale for British students. The scholarships will be open to both sexes and are to be available for undergraduate as well as post-graduate courses. The Charles and Julia Henry Fund, as it will be termed, is to be administered by twelve trustees, three each being appointed by the four universities concerned, who will have wide discretionary powers. The whole of the residuary estate, estimated at £300,000, goes to the fund.

PARTICULARS of vacation courses in England and Wales, 1927, are given in a pamphlet (London, H.M. Stationery Office. 6d.) issued by the Board of Education. Courses for teachers have been arranged: by the Board itself, to be held at Oxford, Cambridge, London, Durham, Birmingham, Nottingham, Bangor, Brighton, Eastbourne, and Studley; by the local education authorities of Brighton, Carmarthen, Cheshire, Glamorgan, Hertford, Kent, and Yorkshire (West Riding); and by five teacher-training institutions. Courses for foreigners are offered by the Universities of London and Cambridge. The University Extension summer meeting will be at Oxford, and there will be the usual university tutorial class summer schools in connexion with all the universities except Reading. Among the various courses offered at Bingley by the West Riding County Council is one by Mr. Stanley Jast on the library and the school. The National Museum of Wales is giving a course on methods of caring for exhibits. Some thirty courses in their special subjects are offered by various voluntary associations. Summer Schools of the League of Nations Union are to be held at Oxford (St. Hugh's College, July 27-Aug. 5) and Geneva (Geneva Institute of International Relations: elementary, July 30-Aug. 5; advanced, Aug. 6-Aug. 12). At Oxford, Lord Hugh Cecil will give the inaugural address, and there will be a preliminary conference of teachers on July 27-29, opened by the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher.

APPOINTMENTS made by the Committee of Award for the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships to the twenty Fellowships tenable by British graduates in American universities for the two years beginning in September 1927 include the following: Mr. J. M. Alston (Edinburgh), to Harvard University, in medicine; Mr. Maurice Black (Trinity College, Cambridge), to Princeton University, in geology; Mr. G. F. Brett (Leeds), to the University of Michigan, in physics; Mr. David Graham (Queen's University, Belfast), to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in electrical engineering; Mr. F. T. Hewer (Bristol), to Johns Hopkins University, in medicine; Mr. M. I. Hutton (Glasgow University and Balliol College, Oxford), to Yale University, in economics; Mr. Eric F. Nash (University College, Oxford), to Harvard University, in economics; Mr. R. A. C. Oliver (Edinburgh), to Stanford University, in education; Mr. A. Oppenheim (Balliol College, Oxford), to the University of Chicago, in mathematics; Mr. R. Robinson (Birmingham), to the University of Pennsylvania, in physical chemistry; Miss E. Simkins (Liverpool), to Clark University, in geography. This year the Commonwealth Fund has established three extra fellowships, primarily intended for candidates from British Dominions who have studied at British Universities. Nominations to these Fellowships include the following: Mr. H. I. Coombs (Adelaide University, Magdalen College, Oxford, and Trinity College, Cambridge), to the Rockefeller Institute, New York, in physiology; Mr. Reginald Jackson (University of South Africa and Trinity College, Oxford), to Harvard University, in philosophy.

Calendar of Discovery and Invention.

May 29, 1453.—From some points of view the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, may be regarded as contributing directly to the birth of the modern age of scientific inquiry and discovery. When, after a siege of 53 days, Mahomet II. gained possession of the city, many Greeks fled into Europe, carrying with them the precious manuscripts of ancient Greek authors. Included in these were mathematical works which were translated and soon afterwards made available through the invention of the printing press.

May 29, 1624.—The first legislative enactment for regulating the granting of industrial monopolies was The Statute of Monopolies (21 Jac. I. c. 3) passed by the English Parliament on May 29, 1624. The Statute was not, as has often been assumed, the foundation of the English patent law; it merely gave parliamentary sanction to principles, already accepted at common law, which now form the basis of all patent laws throughout the world. Its purpose was to prevent the Crown from granting oppressive monopolies, but in the famous section 6 it exempted from the general prohibition the granting of patents for the encouragement of new inventions. This section is still in force.

May 31, 1836.—The introduction of screw propulsion was due to many pioneers, of whom, however, the foremost was Francis Pettit Smith. Smith's first patent was taken out on May 31, 1836, and he described his invention "to consist of a sort of screw or worm made to revolve rapidly under water, in a recess or open space formed in that part of the after part of the vessel, called the dead wood or dead wood of the run." His screw was tried successfully in the s.s. *Archimedes*, the first screw vessel to navigate the open seas.

May 31, 1919.—On the afternoon of May 31, 1919, the American seaplane NC4, piloted by Lieutenant-Commander A. C. Read, arrived in England, having since May 16 flown in three stages from New York to the Azores, thence to Lisbon and to Plymouth. She was the first machine to fly across the Atlantic.

June 1, 1785.—Cavendish in his study of the atmosphere used many methods, and some of these he described to the Royal Society in his paper, "Electric Discharges through Air," read on June 1, 1785.

June 1, 1894.—One of the landmarks in the early history of radio signalling was Sir Oliver Lodge's lecture at the Royal Institution on June 1, 1894, on "The Work of Hertz," when, with the aid of a Branly's coherer of filings, signals were detected at a distance from the transmitting apparatus.

June 1, 1906.—Five tunnels pierce the Alps—the Mont Cenis, the St. Gothard, the Arlberg, the Lotschberg, and the Simplon. Of these the Simplon is the longest and deepest, being 12½ miles long and more than 7000 feet below the surface. Begun in 1898, it was opened on June 1, 1906. It was bored simultaneously from both ends, and when the two tunnels met, the error of alignment was only 3¾ inches.

June 2, 1881.—The famous test of Pasteur's views on the efficacy of vaccination of animals for anthrax culminated on June 2, 1881, at the farmyard of Pouilly le Fort. Twenty-five vaccinated and twenty-five unvaccinated sheep had previously been inoculated with some very virulent cultures of the anthrax bacillus. On June 2, Pasteur and others visited the farm. "The carcasses of twenty-two unvaccinated sheep were lying side by side; two others were breathing their last. . . . All the vaccinated sheep were in perfect health. . . . The one remaining unvaccinated sheep died that same night."

E. C. S.