

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The following appointments have been made: Mr. F. Debenham, Gonville and Caius College, to be reader in geography; Mr. T. G. Bedford, Sidney Sussex College, to be lecturer in physics; Dr. E. M'Kenzie Taylor, St. John's College, to be lecturer, and Dr. H. E. Woodman, demonstrator in agricultural chemistry; Mr. T. K. W. Fair, Jesus College, to be demonstrator in agricultural physiology, and Mr. W. A. Wooster, Peterhouse, to be demonstrator in mineralogy.

K. R. H. Johnston, Sidney Sussex College, A. C. Candler, Trinity College, and G. A. Bell, St. John's College, have been elected to the Henry P. Davison scholarships at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton Universities respectively.

It is proposed to establish new lectureships in structural crystallography in the department of mineralogy and in cultural anthropology in the faculty of archæology and anthropology. It is also proposed to build a special animal house to provide facilities for studying the metabolism of pigmented animals, a capital grant for the purpose having been offered by the Empire Marketing Board.

LONDON.—A research studentship, value £100, is being offered by Bedford College for Women to graduates of the college of not more than three years' standing. Particulars are obtainable from the Secretary.

OXFORD.—The Preamble to a form of Statute providing that women shall be eligible to any professorship, readership, or other university teachership, has been approved by Congregation.

The University Observatory is to be extended at a cost not exceeding £2750, and Prof. H. H. Turner's report on the work of the Observatory for the period May 1, 1926-Mar. 1, 1927, has been published. The various activities of the institution include the well-known seismological investigations by Prof. Turner and a research on "'Trepidation,' or the Fluctuation in the Solar System," by Dr. J. K. Fotheringham.

ST. ANDREWS.—Prof. H. J. Rose, professor of Latin since 1919 at Aberystwyth, has been appointed professor of Greek in the United College. Prof. Rose graduated at McGill University, Montreal, in 1904; he was appointed Rhodes Scholar from the Province of Quebec and went to Balliol College, Oxford. Prof. Rose has published volumes on "The Roman Questions of Plutarch," "Primitive Culture in Greece," and "Primitive Culture in Italy."

THE Royal Society announces that the secretaries are prepared to receive applications for the Mackinnon and Moseley Research Studentships, which are each of the annual value of £300. The appointments will, in the first instance, be for two years, but may be extended. Particulars and forms of application can be obtained from the assistant secretary of the Society, Burlington House, W.1. The completed forms must be returned by June 22 at latest.

Two vacation courses to be held during the coming August are being organised by Leplay House. One will be held in the High Pyrenees, with Aix-les-Thermes as its principal centre. The other will be 'a students' camp' in the Austrian Tyrol in Aldrans, 1700 feet above Innsbruck. The courses are open to all university lecturers, teachers, students, and others interested in geographical, historical, and social studies. Particulars may be obtained from Leplay House, 65 Belgrave Road, Westminster, S.W.1.

Calendar of Discovery and Invention.

June 5, 1838.—In the Journal of Caroline Fox, under this date is an entry describing a visit to King's College, London, to see Wheatstone's electric telegraph, which "is really being brought into service, as last week they began laying it down between London and Bristol, to cost £250 a mile. . . . Wheatstone has been giving lectures, and in fact is in the middle of a course. No ladies are admitted, unfortunately; the Bishop of London forbade it; seeing how they congregated to Lyell's, which prohibition so offended that gentleman that he resigned his professorship."

June 5, 1854.—More than seventy years ago, James Bowman Lindsay conceived the idea of signalling through water without wires, making experiments in the Tay, at Portsmouth, and elsewhere; and on June 5, 1854, he took out a patent for "a mode of transmitting telegraphic messages through and across water without submerged wires, the water being made available as the connecting and conducting medium."

June 6, 1761.—Transits of Venus across the sun's disc occurred in 1631 and 1639, 1761 and 1769, and in 1874 and 1882. That of 1631, though predicted, was unobserved, while Horrocks and Crabtree, two young English astronomers, were the sole observers of that of 1639. The transit of June 6, 1761, was the first to be observed by astronomers generally and many described it, while the transits of the last century were utilised to determine the solar parallax.

June 7, 1866.—On this day Francis Herbert Wenham, one of the early pioneers of flight, took out his patent, No. 1571, for improvements in apparatus for aerial navigation. His patent included "a novel arrangement of surfaces placed one above the other and kept in parallel planes by means of cords or rods or webs of woven fabric," this system of surfaces being arranged as a suitable structure for containing the motive power.

June 8, 1829.—The collaboration between Liebig and Wöhler was the outcome of a proposal by the latter. The two had met at a friend's house in Frankfurt, and on June 8, 1829, Wöhler wrote to Liebig from Sacrow, near Potsdam: "If you are so minded, we might, for the humour of it, undertake some chemical work together, in order that the result might be made known under our joint names. Of course, you would work in Giessen and I in Berlin, when we are agreed upon the plan, and we could communicate with each other from time to time as to its progress."

June 9, 1810.—The compound steam engine was brought into use by Woolf, who on June 9, 1810, took out a patent "for further improvements in the construction and working of steam engines." In a Woolf engine, steam was used expansively in the high-pressure cylinder and then passed direct to the low-pressure cylinder without an intermediate receiver. Woolf engines were considerably more economical than those previously used.

June 9, 1881.—One of the inventions which aroused the enthusiasm of Lord Kelvin was the improved form of secondary battery brought out by Faure. Many experiments were carried out at Glasgow, and in a letter to the *Times* on June 9, 1881, entitled "Electrical Storage of Dynamical Energy," Kelvin directed attention to the importance of the new form of accumulator.

June 10, 1717.—The "Sermo de structura florum" of Sébastien Vaillant (1669-1722) was read in Paris at the opening of the Jardin Royal de Paris, and afterwards published in Latin and French; the perusal of this thin volume is stated to have suggested his sexual system of plants to Carl Linnæus (1707-1778) ten years later.

E. C. S.