past, the plantations became congested, damp, and airless, and bad attacks of canker followed. Secondly, the larch has always been raised in plantations from planted-out plants. Saving one or two instances only, no larch wood has originated from natural regeneration or from sown seed in Great Britain. The *Leaflet* in question, and many other writers, appear to assume that larch will never be raised in dense natural woods in Britain. It appears at least doubtful that this assumption is likely to prove justified. As the *Leaflet* shows, the life history of the fungus and the conditions it requires to thrive in are now available to all. Many of the mistakes of the past are thus avoidable. Once the correct methods of thinning are applied, it is reasonable to surmise that it may be possible to raise larch in Britain as well as other species in dense young woods and thus produce a finer quality of timber.

Activities of Czechoslovak Engineers.

THE magnitude of engineering undertakings in Czechoslovakia is not generally realised. The publication of the "Almanac" of the seventh conference of Czechoslovak Engineers and Architects (a profusely illustrated quarto volume of 432 pages) directs attention to the achievements of its members. The greatest Czechoslovak engineering concern, the Škoda works at Pilsen, occupies an enormous area, and the history of its precursor, the firm of Laurin and Klement, shows what rapid strides have been made in the construction of engines and motors for various purposes.

In the conference proceedings three authors dwell upon the extension of the use of power alcohol, whilst other chemical engineers foreshadow the use of both old and new poison gases in future warfare.

Sugar is an important item in their export trade, and an account is given of the latest practice at a number of well-known factories. The report from the Semčice Experimental Beet-growing Station also gives an idea of the progress made in improving both the crop and the sugar content of the beets.

Mladá Boleslav, in north-east Bohemia, where the conference met, is near the centre of the gem, glass, and textile industries. Reference is made to all these in the "Almanac," which gives descriptions of the garnet-cutting industry at Turnov, the glass-making at Jablonec, and the textile trade of Liberec (Reichenberg).

Another subject which received attention is long-distance telephony. The construction and equipment of stations for this work and the essentials for good transmission of speech by cable or radio were described, together with an account of the transmission stations of Prague, Brno, and Bratislava.

Technical education has not been neglected in Czechoslovakia, and the principals of a number of special schools indicated to the conference the lines upon which their work is carried on, and make mention of the good results that have accrued.

An interesting feature of the conference was that prominent industrialists and statesmen were invited to suggest in which directions they considered there was scope for improvement and further development in engineering activities and to indicate where engineers had neglected to make the necessary developments in the past. Several instructive replies are printed in the proceedings, and it may be added that they are applicable to other countries besides Czechoslovakia.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. M. Dixon, Emmanuel College, has been appointed University lecturer in biochemistry.

Under the will of the Rev. J. H. Ellis a sum of about £65,000 will shortly pass to the University. The Council announces that it has given preliminary consideration to the possibility of finding from this and other sources means to provide for a substantial portion of the new University Library and for new lecture rooms for the literary faculties. A detailed report will be made next term.

Sir Humphry Rolleston will represent the University next May at the tercentenary celebration by the Royal College of Physicians of the publication of William Harvey's book, "De motu cordis."

LONDON.—An offer by the joint committee of the Paviors' Company and of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers to establish a part-time chair of highway engineering in the University for post-graduate students has been accepted.

OXFORD.—Cecil Graham Traquair Morison, reader in agricultural chemistry, has been elected to an official studentship at Christ Church.

John Carew Eccles, Rhodes Scholar from Melbourne, has been awarded the Francis Gotch Memorial Prize and has been elected to a junior research fellowship at Exeter College.

John Hulton Wolfenden, Procter Travelling Fellow of 1924–5, has been appointed lecturer in chemistry at Exeter College.

Stanley Carson, Fellow of New College, has been elected a member of the Committee of Geography.

NEW science laboratories at the City of London School were formally opened on Dec. 20 with a reception by the chairman of the school committee (Mr. Cecil J. Jennings) and the headmaster (Rev. Dr. Prebendary Chilton), followed by a conversazione to which 1500 guests were invited. The site of the school on the Victoria Embankment is probably as fine, and certainly as valuable, as that of any school in the kingdom. The penalty of eminence in this case is the difficulty of extension. The present alterations have been carried out at a cost of £22,000, and include four class rooms, a large lecture hall, a new dining-room, an armoury, and the remodelling and refurnishing of the whole of the top floor for the teaching of science. All this has been accomplished without encroaching to any appreciable extent on the playground space. The new extensions were rendered necessary by recent movements in the direction of teaching science on a broader basis and to larger numbers of non-specialists. The school was one of the first to introduce natural science into its curriculum. This teaching was by 'block' lectures covering a wide range and taking in the whole school, but with very little opportunity for practical work. It has been the fashion of late to depreciate this kind of teaching; nevertheless, the fact remains that many old citizens who became famous in after life had their enthusiasm aroused and their imaginations stirred by these lectures. This, rightly or wrongly, was followed by a period of increasing specialisation for the comparative few and concurrent limitation of opportunity for the rest. The new movement is towards a broadening of the basis for all. General science, including biology, will be taught on the classical side, physics-with-chemistry on the modern side, while on the science side limited specialisation in physics, chemistry, and biology will be possible.