of University College, Oxford. His presidential address on "Recent Influences of Oriental Art upon Western Painting and Literature" showed remarkable discernment in tracing the influence of eighteenth century *chinoiseries* in the drawings of Cozens and Gilpin, while pointing out, with a characteristically stimulating grasp of essentials, the affinity between Wordsworth's attitude to Nature and that of the great Chinese painters.

Except for the specialist who confines himself to one subject, the variety of the Congress was rather bewildering; while the number of papers precludes mention of more than a brief and entirely inadequate selection. Many, of course, were highly technical in their interest. Among those of wider appeal, even if technical in character, may be mentioned Prof. Zeitlin's discussion of the authenticity of the recently discovered "Jesus" passage in the Slavonic Josephus, to which Dr. Gaster stated that he had found similarities in a Rumanian version discovered by himself; Dr. H. Farmer's analysis of the information relating to Greek music to be found in Arabic writers; and a paper by Kuoprulu Zade Fuad Bey, which in discussing Omar Khayyám's belief in metamorphosis, produced fifty-three new quatrains of his verse.

Some remarkable customs were described by Mr. B. Thomas in a thrilling account of his travels in parts of southern Arabia never trodden by Europeans, during which he discovered non-Arab tribes speaking four different languages, possibly Semitic, not understood by the Arabs. It was suggested that these tribes were Hamitic. Of both linguistic and cultural significance was Dr. Alan Gardiner's communication on the Sinai script, in which he held that his decipherment proved the origin in the Sinai script of both the Phenician and our own alphabetic script. The Commission from Malta brought forward a paper which supported the view that the Maltese language originated in an Arabic tongue of North Africa with Phenician elements.

The work of archæological excavation in areas covered by the Congress was well represented. Mr. Woolley, on Ur, has already been mentioned. Mr. C. Firth on the excavations at Saqqara, and Mr. Guy on the work in Palestine at Megiddo, which brought to light buildings conjectured to be the stables of Solomon, were also highly appreciated. Prof. Chiera, in describing a wealthy Babylonian's house excavated by the American School of Oriental Research at Nuzi, near Kirkuk, brought forward some interesting suggestions as to the domestic arrangements of the period. The house had been destroyed by fire, presumably at the hands of Assyrian raiders, and the condition of the remains of the clay brick walls, which had evidently been subjected to intense heat, suggested that the rooms had contained a considerable quantity of wooden furniture.

In more purely literary and scholastic subjects, the Institute of St. Joseph of Beirut received well-merited recognition for the account of its work on the preparation of the "Bibliotheca Arabica Scholasticorum."

Finally, mention must be made of two resolutions passed by the Congress: one was in response to a paper by Pater Schmidt, urging the establishment of an organisation for the systematic study of Australian languages; and the other urged upon the governments of the Near and Middle East the need for increasing the facilities granted to accredited excavators, and removing certain disabilities to which they are at present subject—a question raised by Mr. Guy of Palestine.

The next meeting of the Congress will be held in 1931 in Holland, probably at Leyden.

University and Educational Intelligence.

OXFORD.—Under the will of Mr. W. W. Rouse Ball, of Trinity College, Cambridge, who died on April 4, 1925, sums of money were bequeathed for the foundation of Rouse Ball chairs of mathematics at Oxford and Cambridge. Early this year, Prof. J. E. Littlewood was appointed to the Cambridge chair, and now Prof. E. A. Milne, Beyer professor of applied mathematics in the University of Manchester, has been appointed as from Jan. 1, 1929, to the Rouse Ball professorship of mathematics at Oxford. Prof. Milne's duties will be to give instruction in mathematical physics, and he may also give lectures on the history of mathematics in accordance with the wishes of the founder. Subject to certain conditions, a non-stipendiary fellowship at Wadham College is attached to the chair.

DALHOUSIE University at Halifax, Nova Scotia, has instituted a chair of fisheries and a degree of bachelor of science in fisheries. In co-operation with the Biological Board of Canada, through which the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries controls the Marine Biological Station at Halifax, the University is providing a four-year course combining with instruction in the fundamental sciences practical teaching of the general principles of fish culture, salting, drying and canning methods, freezing and smoking methods, and marine biology. Instructors will be provided by the Biological Board.

FOR four years past the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, W.1, has, in an experimental way, provided courses of instruction in industrial administration. A co-ordinated course has now been arranged, and examinations will be under the joint control of the Institute of Industrial Administration and the Polytechnic. The course is designed to help those ambitious men and women who have the personal qualities of leadership but require in addition a sufficient training in the technique of industrial administration to undertake the management of business organisations. Related courses of lectures on "The Effect of Government on the Economic Structure of the United Kingdom" will be given at the Polytechnic by the Right Honourable Dr. William Graham, and by diplomatic representatives of South American States on "The Economic Resources of South America." Details can be obtained from the Director of Education of the Polytechnic.

THE depressed state of the coal industry has directed attention to the need of more scientific treatment of fuel, and it is pleasing to note that the Sir John Cass Technical Institute, London, E.C.3, has arranged a five-year course dealing with coal carbonisation, the classes being held in the evening in order to meet the requirements of those engaged during the day. Every phase of the subject is covered, and students attending the course can enter for the certificate examinations of the Institution of Gas Engineers. It is particularly interesting to notice that post-graduate students are also encouraged to offer coal carbonisation as a subject for the M.Sc. degree. The scheme will be inaugurated in the forthcoming session by a course of lectures on gas manufacture by Mr. H. D. Greenwood. The general extent of the curriculum is indicated by the inclusion of lectures dealing with such subjects as fuel and refractories, applications of engineering, and gas analysis. Those wishing to qualify for executive positions are offered a course on English law as related to chemical industry, and chemists will be interested in a course on chemical plant by a panel of special lecturers.