

University and Educational Intelligence.

THE emphasis laid by American educationists to-day on the importance of relating institutions, whether university, college, or school, as closely as possible to the actual daily life of the people, may be seen in the rapid increase (to which attention is directed in *Education Bulletin*, 1929, No. 30) in the number of schools adopting the form of organisation known as the 'general shop' for providing in the school curriculum instruction in a number of different manual activities for pupils of twelve to fifteen years of age. The bulletin points out that modern life has become so complex and production so highly specialised that the consumer has, apart from some such school instruction, little opportunity to learn much about trade operations, materials, or manufacturing processes. The 'general shop' training is not for actual skill in the trades represented, but rather for an understanding and appreciation of values in the final product, and incidentally for the acquisition of a certain amount of unspecialised 'handyman's' dexterity.

NATAL University College celebrates this year the twenty-first anniversary of its foundation. In a handsome commemoration number of the College magazine appears an interesting retrospect by Prof. J. W. Bews, chairman of the College Senate and Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of South Africa, whose connexion with the College has been continuous since 1910, except for a break of two years, 1925-27, when he held the chair of botany in the University of Durham. The progress of the College since the War has been rapid, the number of students (420 in 1930) having been multiplied nearly tenfold. It was established in Maritzburg, the old capital of Natal, but its work was in 1922 extended to Durban in co-operation with the staff of the Natal Technical College. Durban as a commercial city and seaport has developed at such a pace that it has far outgrown Maritzburg in importance, and seems destined to have a great future in which the College will take a prominent part.

THE Department of Agriculture for Scotland has approved the following appointments at the Hannah Dairy Research Institute, Ayr: *Director*, Dr. Norman C. Wright; *Secretary*, Mr. T. W. Gibson; *Research Assistant in Physiology*, Mr. S. Morris. Dr. N. C. Wright was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, and at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He received the degree of Ph.D. at Cambridge for work on the calcium metabolism of dairy cows. In 1924 Dr. Wright joined the staff of the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Reading, and in 1926 he was awarded a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, working for two years in the United States, first in the Department of Dairy Industry at Cornell University, and later in the Bureau of Dairying of the United States Department of Agriculture. He was the first member of the staff of the Hannah Institute and has been largely responsible for the general development of the work of the Institute. His research work has been largely in the field of applied physiology. With Mr. W. L. Little he demonstrated for the first time the reduction in the lime content of the blood in cases of milk fever, an observation which forms the basis of the new calcium treatment of this disease. He has also published papers on the physiology of milk secretion, the significance of 'bulk' in the rations of dairy cows, and the occurrence of tuberculosis in cattle. Dr. Wright succeeds Prof. E. P. Cathcart, who will retain his active connexion with the Institute in the position of vice-chairman of the Committee.

Historic Natural Events.

Aug. 24, 358. Great Storm in Black Sea.—A violent storm, accompanied by a great inundation of the sea, occurred in the Black Sea; at noon the sky was quite dark. Macedonia and Asia Minor suffered severely. The storm was followed by a great earthquake.

Aug. 24-26, 1905. Rainstorm in Eastern Ireland.—Rain began to fall shortly after 9 P.M. on Aug. 24 in Dublin, and continued steadily for 34 hours, during which period about 4 inches of rain fell generally, the amount increasing to 5.50 inches on high ground at Bray. Floods caused a great deal of damage to roads and bridges, while part of Bray was submerged to a depth of 4 feet, and the electric light generators were put out of action.

Aug. 25, 1839. Red Snow.—Although the occurrence of patches of red colour in old snow had been known for long, one of the earliest detailed determinations of the true nature of the colouring matter was that made by R. J. Shuttleworth in 1839 (*Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*, 1840, p. 54). He examined microscopically melted red snow from the neighbourhood of the Hospice du Grimsel, and found that the red colour was due to a number of minute organisms, both Flagellata and Algae. The snow was described as having a rosy hue, like very pale blood; being old, it was granular, and the colouring matter was contained in the intervals between the particles, giving the surface a veined appearance. The colour extended to a depth of several inches or a foot.

Aug. 25, 1890. Thunderstorm in Eastern Alps.—At about 4 P.M. a thunderstorm occurred at Pesaro in north-eastern Italy, travelling very rapidly north-eastwards across the Adriatic and eastern Austria so far as Vienna. The rainfall was not especially heavy, the largest total being only 3.5 in., partly in the form of hail, but the storm was notable for the sharp rise of pressure, at Pesaro more than 5 mb., which accompanied the onset of the storm, and the violent winds. At Pesaro the wind velocity reached 80 miles per hour, and at Pola 62 miles per hour. Much damage was done, trees uprooted and houses unroofed; many ships were wrecked. The violent winds blew from the south-west, parallel with the track of the storm and at about the same speed.

Aug. 25, 1925. Lightning at San Joaquin Valley, California.—On Aug. 25, 1925, a lightning storm broke over the valley. A flash of lightning struck a 750,000-barrel oil reservoir of the Shell Company at Coalinga and caused an immense fire. The heat developed by the fire was sufficient to raise 1000 cubic kilometres of air through 10° C. Owing to this intense heat, whirlwinds were formed over the fire, and D. Brunt found that the energy supplied by the fire was ample to account for the formation of violent tornadoes. This lightning stroke cost the fire insurance companies more than one million dollars.

Aug. 26, 1346. Crécy Storm.—It is related that just before the battle of Crécy a shower broke over the French and English armies, and largely disabled the Genoese crossbowmen with the former by wetting their strings. The English archers, keeping their bows in cases, were not affected, and it has been said that this incident influenced the course of the battle.

Aug. 26-28, 1883. Great Eruption of Krakatoa.—The great eruption of Krakatoa, in the Sunda Strait, attained its maximum phase during these days. In a series of great outbursts, two-thirds of the island disappeared. The sounds of the explosions were heard at Diego Garcia (2375 miles) and Rodriguez (3080 miles). Waves of longer period cracked walls at