

sarily prove detrimental to its use. It can be readily air-seasoned, but, as the sapwood is liable to blue stain, the logs must be converted as soon as possible after felling; and similarly seasoning should proceed as rapidly as possible after conversion. In the case of air-seasoning, open stacking is recommended.

Although the timber has a strength equal to the average pines, except the pitch pines, it is not so strong as Scots pine or home-grown Douglas, a point requiring careful consideration. It is inclined to be brittle and consequently should not be used in positions where it would have to resist the application of sudden loads or shocks. As a mechanical timber it is probably of most use as a post, where its strength in compression parallel to the grain is almost equal to that of the Scots pine. Corsican pine takes readily either creosote or water solutions. The timber works easily under all tools and takes a finish equal to Scots pine. There is, however, a considerable proportion of sapwood and this is more difficult to cut than the heartwood. The frequency of knots detracts also

from the appearance in finishing any large surface of timber. The knots are to a considerable extent due to faulty methods of growth in the past, and this defect should be eliminated in the future. It is said that the timber would then be suitable for all classes of finer joinery in which Scots pine is at present used. It would also be useful for boxes, packing-cases, and crates. Owing to the readiness with which it takes creosote, it has a possible future as railway sleepers.

As regards pit props, this timber, when carefully graded (the latter point is of first importance), is equal to Scots pine and compares favourably with imported props of the same grade. The props must not be left with the bark on for any considerable time.

To those interested in the afforestation question and to the future uses to which the timbers of the species now being planted may be put, a study of this bulletin should prove of the greatest interest. It also furnishes evidence of the important nature of the work being undertaken by the Forest Products Research Laboratory at Princes Risborough.

Annual Conference of the Geographical Association.

THE annual conference of the Geographical Association was held at the London School of Economics on Dec. 31-Jan. 3, and was followed by a week-end visit to St. Albans. There could be few more adequate tributes to the vitality of the modern science of geography and the increasing recognition of its importance in all walks of life than the steadily expanding activities of this annual gathering. It is estimated that between five hundred and six hundred members took part, and more than a hundred sat down to the annual dinner on Jan. 2, whilst the publishers' exhibition was larger than on any previous occasion. It is significant of the mutual appreciation of two bodies engaged in spreading knowledge of the earth as the environment of man and the responsibilities of the voter of to-day as a citizen of the world, that the opening gathering of the conference took place in the galleries of the Imperial Institute. Here, members and their friends were welcomed by Lieut.-General Sir William Furse.

Mr. B. B. Dickinson, in his presidential address, dealt with the early history of the Association, modestly attempting to disclaim his title of founder. His interesting account of the steps by which geographical teaching has been improved and of how the interests of teachers were watched by the young Association was provided with a sequel at the annual dinner by the announcement of a presentation shortly to be made to Miss R. M. Fleming. Under the guidance of Prof. H. J. Fleure as honorary secretary, no one has done more to further the work of the Association—its membership of more than 4000, its library, its lantern-slide collection, and its branch organisations—than Miss Fleming. Very appropriately, her recent travels in Russia provided some of the material for a very able account of the geographical regions of the country, a lecture which attracted many more than could be admitted.

In the annual report, reference was made to the transfer of the headquarters to Manchester, and to the acceptance by Sir Leslie Mackenzie of the presidency for 1931. Mr. J. Fairgrieve reported on the work of the Commission on Educational Films, holding that the present-day teachers must in any case face the problem of using films for a generation of children already film-minded as freely as they would a blackboard. Dr. L. D. Stamp, as the director of the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, referred to that organisation as having grown naturally out of a committee of

the Association. It is the primary object of the survey to record on the 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps the uses to which the surface of the country is applied, the uses being grouped under half a dozen simple categories. So far as possible, county education authorities are being asked to organise the work, which has the approval, amongst others, of Sir Charles Trevelyan, Sir Henry Richards, the County Councils' Association, and the Forestry Commission. It is hoped to publish the results as a series of map sheets on the scale of 1 inch to 1 mile.

Amongst other lectures may be mentioned Major Hingston's on the investigation of the life of the 'roof' of the equatorial forests of Guiana, Miss Butcher's description of the methods of the study groups organised by Leplay House (Institute of Sociology) as exemplified by surveys made amongst the Chod villages of Bohemia, and Dr. P. W. Bryan's study of population groupings in Britain. Dr. Bryan maintains that the human habitations marked on the 1-inch Ordnance Survey maps show a characteristic grouping according to the dominant occupation of the area, the grouping for example being different in areas of arable farming, pastoral farming, or mining. An important series of original maps, showing on the dot method the principal areas of production of the leading crops of Scotland, was exhibited by Mr. H. J. Wood. Amongst the group discussions, that on school journeys, which was combined with an exhibition of photographs and work carried out by pupils taken on such journeys, was of special interest.

After the termination of the London meetings, about forty members paid a visit to St. Albans, where they were received by Sir John and Lady Russell and members of the St. Albans Rotary Club. An examination of the site of the Roman city (Verulamium) afforded an opportunity of discussing the geographical factors which helped to determine the site of the city on the now elm-lined meadows beyond the Ver, and of the Saxon church of St. Michael. After a visit to the Herts County Museum, the party was received by the Mayor and Mayoress, and a lecture was given by Mr. Woolley on the life of St. Albans, based on the manuscripts of Matthew Paris. On Sunday, after attending a civic service at the cathedral, the house and grounds of Gorhambury (Bacon's home) were seen under the personal guidance of Lady Verulam, and an address on Bacon and his times, given by Sir Richard Lodge, was greatly enjoyed. On Monday, after

seeing the cathedral, the party made a tour, visiting especially the Gade Valley, "one of the most interesting valleys in England for the student of transport". Above Tring, from the chalk scarp, an excellent view of the plain was obtained, the richly cultivated chalk-marl terrace with its row of old villages standing out clearly. The tour finished with a visit to Rothamsted Experimental Station under the guidance of Sir John Russell.

L. DUDLEY STAMP.
E. E. EVANS.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Appointments Committee of the Faculty of Medicine has reappointed Dr. A. E. Barclay, of Christ's College, to be University lecturer in medical radiology and electrology.

Dr. F. G. Mann, of Downing College, has been elected to a fellowship at Trinity College. Dr. Mann, who was formerly assistant to the professor of chemistry, is a University lecturer in chemistry.

GLASGOW.—On Tuesday last, at a ceremony in the Randolph Hall of the University, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, president of the Royal Society, presented, on behalf of the subscribers, to Prof. Robert Muir, his portrait by Mr. G. Fiddes Watt, and to the University a bust by Mr. G. H. Paulin.

LONDON.—The Court has accepted, on behalf of the University, the generous bequest of £4000, free of legacy duty, from the late Miss Mary Ethel Sim Scharlieb, who died on May 31, 1926. The purpose of the bequest is the founding of a scholarship in memory of Miss Scharlieb's mother, the late Dame Mary Ann Dacomb Scharlieb, to whose life interest the legacy was subject. The conditions of award are to be determined by the University.

THE eighteenth series of *Methods and Problems of Medical Education* has been issued by the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, U.S.A. This volume deals particularly with institutes and laboratories of physiology and physiological and bio-chemistry, together with some pathological and other special departments, in all parts of the world. As in previous series, descriptions of the laboratories are given, with illustrations and plans, and in some instances the staffing and budgets of the departments are appended.

THE annual report of the University of Leeds to the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers of the City of London on its textile industries and colour chemistry and dyeing departments will be read with additional interest in view of the recent controversies regarding the Dyestuffs Act of 1920. Both departments showed a falling off in the number of day students, and the textile industries department's enrolment of evening students decreased from 110 to 94. They both report, however, a brisk demand for the services of their past students, and the colour chemistry and dyeing department could have placed in suitable positions more students than were ready for employment. Great interest was taken in the work of the department by numerous firms, which not only consulted its head when vacancies occurred in their staffs, but also gave a great variety of chemicals, artificial silks, and other textile materials, machinery, etc. All students awarded research scholarships in recent years have completed arrangements for their employment in industry some months in advance of leaving the Department. Attached to the report is a list of publications by members of the departments.

No. 3195, Vol. 127]

Birthdays and Research Centres.

Jan. 25, 1875.—Mr. S. S. COOK, F.R.S., technical manager of the Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Co.

The chief objects of present investigations are the development of high pressure turbine machinery for marine propulsion, and the investigation of thermodynamic and hydrodynamic problems, including cavitation and water-hammer erosion.

Jan. 26, 1885.—Mr. H. R. RICARDO, F.R.S., technical director of Ricardo and Co., Ltd., consulting engineers.

At present I am occupied chiefly with the design and development of light, high-speed, heavy oil engines for all mobile purposes. This problem includes an investigation into the factors controlling combustion under the conditions of compression ignition, in relation both to combustion chamber design and to the preparation of suitable fuels.

Jan. 27, 1856.—Prof. EDWARD B. POULTON, F.R.S., Hope professor of zoology in the University of Oxford.

My chief object is to bring together and publish in a series of parts the observations on the bionomics of insects which have appeared scattered through many journals and books during the past forty-five years, especially those which deal with protective (cryptic) resemblance, warning (aposematic) characters, and mimicry, both Müllerian (synaposematic) and Batesian (pseudaposematic); also with epigamic characters and their display or manifestation in other ways. I hope to be able to include such interesting new observations on these subjects as are likely to be recorded in the near future.

Jan. 27, 1864.—Prof. J. W. GREGORY, F.R.S., lately professor of geology in the University of Glasgow.

I am at present in a transitional stage, for, having recently resigned my chair, I am hoping for leisure to work at several problems which have always specially interested me. In the meanwhile, I am trying to finish some arrears of incomplete work, such as a paper on the sequence of the Dalradian rocks of the Southern Highlands of Scotland, and a paper on the australites or obsidian buttons of Australia. Later I hope to secure leisure for work on some problems of general geomorphology, including the analogies in tectonic structure of Africa and South America, and complete a study of the geological history of the oceans, of which two sections were dealt with in an address to the Geological Society. I have also material collected at various times and still undescribed.

Jan. 30, 1851.—Dr. HENRY OGG FORBES, consulting director of museums to the Corporation of Liverpool.

For some time I have been incapacitated from undertaking any new scientific or literary work, owing to the painful results of the collapse of a chair in the British Museum Reading-Room. Should, however, the surgical operation proposed restore me, as anticipated, to some measure of relief, I look forward hopefully to publishing the ethnographical and geographical observations made in Sokotra (indicated in the preface to "The Natural History of Sokotra and Abd-El-Kuri") and in Peru.