University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—An election to the Sheepshanks Exhibition for proficiency in astronomy will be held in the present term. Any member of the University under the standing of master of arts or, being a research student, under the standing of doctor of philosophy may be a candidate for the exhibition. The holder of the exhibition is required to engage in astronomical research to the satisfaction of the Council of Trinity College. Candidates are invited to send in their applications, before May 6, to Prof. Stratton, Gonville and Caius College, stating their qualifications and claims and proposed course of astronomical research.

The General Board recommends (*a*) that a university lectureship in pharmacology be established in the faculty of medicine as from Oct. 1, 1930; (*b*) that a university demonstratorship be established in the Department of Experimental Psychology as from Oct. 1, 1931.

The following Syndicate has been appointed to consider the medical courses and examinations of the University and their relations to courses and examinations for the degree of B.A.: the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. H. R. Dean, Mr. W. Spens, Sir Humphry Rolleston, Dr. T. S. Hele, Dr. E. D. Adrian, Dr. A. E. Clark-Kennedy, Dr. L. A. Borradaile, Prof. J. T. Wilson, Prof. J. Barcroft, Mr. H. Thirkill, and Mr. H. McCombie.

EDINBURGH.—Members of the University Court, Senatus, and General Council and a large body of students attended on April 22, in the Old College, a memorial service to the late Prof. Lorrain Smith, professor of pathology since 1912 and dean of the faculty of medicine. The service was conducted by the dean of the faculty of divinity, Prof. Curtis; the text was read by the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Thomas Holland; and Prof. Samuel Alexander, of the University of Manchester, paid a tribute to the memory of Prof. Lorrain Smith. Representatives attended from the Universities of Belfast, Manchester, Cambridge, Glasgow, and Aberdeen.

LONDON.—Keddey Fletcher-Warr Studentships, each of the value of £250 a year for three years, have been awarded to Mr. H. W. Thompson, for a study of the chemistry of the methyl- and the chloro-naphthalines, and to Margaret Hill, for the continuation of work in progress on the regulation of the ovary, with special reference to the part played by the hormones of the anterior pituitary body.

THE fourth biennial conference of the World Federation of Education Associations will be held at Denver, Colorado, on July 27–Aug. 2. Of special interest is the health section, which is active in promoting the health of children through the schools of the world. Further information concerning the conference can be obtained from Miss S. L. Jean, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York.

AN election will shortly be made to a Bayliss-Starling Memorial Scholarship, founded by old students, friends, and admirers, in commemoration of Sir William Bayliss and Prof. E. H. Starling. The scholar will be required to follow a course of study approved by the Jodrell professor of physiology at University College, London, involving a training in the principles of, and methods of research in, physiology and biochemistry. Candidates must send their applications to the Secretary of University College not later than Friday, May 15.

A PARTY of representatives of the universities of Great Britain were the guests of the Prussian Government on April 19, at the State Opera House, Berlin. The party has been on a tour of investigation of the German university system. The tour was organised at the instance of the International Relations Committee of the Association of University Teachers. It is the second international tour that has been organised, the first having been to France in 1930. The objects in view are to collect data for a comparative study of university systems and to promote contact and co-operation between academic circles in Great Britain and other countries. Visits to Switzerland and the United States of America are in contemplation. Both in France and in Germany these visits have aroused wide and intense interest among education authorities, who have received the parties with the greatest cordiality and have offered the fullest facilities for inquiry into every aspect of their activities. There can be little doubt that in publishing detailed reports of these investigations, the Association of University Teachers is performing an important service both to the cause of higher education, especially in regard to university development, and in furthering international understanding and goodwill, and that it may eventually result in the establishment of some permanent scheme of co-operation on the part of the universities of the world, which may create a forum for the discussion of their common problems. The Report on the French University System, based on the 1930 visit to France, may be obtained from Prof. R. Douglas Laurie, honorary general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, University College, Aberystwyth (6*d*.).

Birthdays and Research Centres.

May 3, 1892.—Prof. G. P. THOMSON, F.R.S., professor of physics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

An attempt is being made by several workers at the Imperial College to use the phenomenon of electron diffraction as a tool to study the nature of surface layers, particularly those formed in the corrosion of metals. It has been proved that cathode rays, when reflected from a crystalline or microcrystalline surface of known structure, form a diffraction pattern which depends on the crystal structure just like the pattern formed by X-rays. Conversely, the pattern gives information about an unknown structure. The advantage of using electrons instead of X-rays is that the former only penetrate a few molecules deep, and so give information about the surface layer without confusion by the bulk of the solid.

May 7, 1886.—Prof. H. HARTRIDGE, F.R.S., professor of physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London.

In conjunction with Dr. Ranyard West, I have been engaged on an investigation of certain aspects of muscular tone. We have found that tetany, produced in animals by the removal of the parathyroid glands, may be temporarily relieved by the administration of the drug curare. Before giving the curare, an animal may be lying on its side with its limb muscles in tonic contraction; about half an hour after giving the curare, the animal may be running or eating in apparent normal health.

Since curare is used as an arrow-head poison, for producing paralysis and death, this 'cure' of tetany is a very unexpected phenomenon. We are investigating the matter further, as we hope it may throw light not only on the mode of action of curare, but also on the nature of tetany.