

Holland the use of blue glass has, moreover, been extended to cow-houses with beneficial results. The glass, although of a distinctly different tint from Calorex, appears to share with the latter to some extent its power of absorbing the infra-red radiation of the sun, so that temperature effects may be partly responsible for the positive results obtained. The value of yellow glass cannot, however, be ascribed to such an effect. More information is obviously required on this most practical problem.

- ¹ NATURE, 125, 780, May 24, 1930.
² NATURE, 125, 529, April 5, 1930.
³ NATURE, 125, 780, May 24, 1930.

University and Educational Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM.—The vacancy caused by the retirement of Prof. F. W. Burstall from the chair of mechanical engineering has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Samuel Lees. Mr. Lees studied at Manchester College of Technology and St. John's College, Cambridge. He took the Mathematical Tripos and afterwards did research under the late Prof. B. Hopkinson, being elected to a fellowship of St. John's College in 1912. He was Hopkinson lecturer in thermodynamics at Cambridge (1919–29) and director of engineering studies at St. John's College (1924–29). Since 1929 Mr. Lees has been consulting engineer to Messrs. Silica Gel, Ltd.

LEEDS.—The University has instituted a diploma in public administration, the course of study for which will commence in October 1931. The course will extend over two winter sessions.

SHEFFIELD.—The Council of the University has decided to appoint a professor of electrical engineering. It is hoped to make the appointment in time for him to take over his duties in the early part of 1932.

MR. SIDNEY WEINTROUB, of St. John's College, Oxford, has been appointed an assistant lecturer in physics at University College, Southampton.

The Wilbur Wright memorial lecture of the Royal Aeronautical Society will be delivered on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 9.15, in the Science Museum, South Kensington, by Mr. Glenn Martin, who will take as his subject "The Development of Aircraft Manufacturing".

The following scholarships for 1931 have been awarded by the Institution of Electrical Engineers: Duddell Scholarship (annual value £150; tenable for 3 years): C. H. W. Clark (Sevenoaks Grammar School); Silvanus Thompson Scholarship (annual value £100, plus tuition fees; tenable for two years): C. H. Lackey (Messrs. A. Reyrolle and Co., Ltd.); David Hughes Scholarship (value £100; tenable for 1 year): G. L. d'Ombra (City and Guilds (Engineering) College); Salomons Scholarship (value £100; tenable for 1 year): S. H. Padel (Manchester College of Technology); War Thanksgiving Education and Research Fund (No. 1): grants of £50 each to F. J. Clark (East London College) and J. H. Wagstaff (University College, London); Thorowgood Scholarship (annual value £25; tenable for 2 years): P. W. Ottley (Underground Electric Railway Company of London, Ltd.); Paul Scholarship (annual value £50; tenable for 2 years): W. T. Darwin (L.C.C. School of Engineering and Navigation).

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Birthdays and Research Centres.

Aug. 16, 1863.—Prof. F. S. KIPPING, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in University College, Nottingham.

Nearly thirty years ago the study of some organic derivatives of silicon was commenced, with the primary object of proving that compounds of the type $\text{SiR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3\text{R}_4$ existed in enantiomorphously related, optically active forms. During the progress of this work, various interesting by-paths were encountered and, with the help of many students, some of these have been partly explored. The results have indicated that silicon analogues of many of the more important types of carbon compounds cannot be obtained, and that silicon is incapable of uniting with itself, with carbon, or with oxygen, by a 'double bond'. On the other hand, the formation of chains of silicon atoms, linked together directly or by an atom of oxygen, often takes place with unexpected facility, giving highly complex products, many of which cannot be isolated and identified.

Aug. 19, 1868.—Prof. W. BULLOCH, F.R.S., Goldsmiths' professor of bacteriology in the University of London.

Ever since Lister (1869) introduced into surgery the principle of the antiseptic absorbable ligature in the form of catgut, this has always been a problem. Some years ago I was requested by the London Hospital authorities to investigate complaints regarding the sterility of samples of catgut sold in commerce. Much of the 'sterile' catgut was found not to be so, and the catgut sold by several manufacturers was found indeed to be uniformly (100 per cent) infected and presumably harmful. To remedy this so far as my own hospital was concerned, I carried out a systematic investigation of the methods of sterilising catgut, and this involved testing more than 30,000 ligatures. Two methods were found to be effective in producing sterile catgut. In conjunction with Messrs. Lampitt and Bushill, of the laboratories of J. Lyons and Co., a report was issued by the Medical Research Council, and the result was that surgical catgut was brought under the Therapeutic Substances Act, and the tests we had laid down were enforced. Two years' experience of the new conditions relative to the manufacture of surgical catgut in England and abroad has shown that at the present time the catgut is much better than was previously the case, and the risk of ligature infection in surgical operations has been greatly diminished.

In my leisure I devote my time to the study of the history of the sciences associated with medicine.

Aug. 19, 1874.—Prof. A. H. REGINALD BULLER, F.R.S., professor of botany in the University of Manitoba.

I am interested in the relations of fungi with various animals; and two species of Fungi Imperfecti, which attack and kill large numbers of larval nematode worms (*Strongylus* species, parasites of the horse) as these wriggle about in horse dung, are being investigated in my laboratory.

My chief occupation just now is the completion of the manuscript and the illustrations for another volume of my "Researches on Fungi". This volume, in part, will treat of *Pilobolus* and the ocellus function of its subsporangial swelling, *Sporobolomyces* regarded as a basidiomycetous yeast, *Tilletia tritici*, which causes the stinking smut disease of wheat, and *Sphaerobolus stellatus*, a small gasteromycete allied to the puff-balls, which can shoot its ball of spores a horizontal distance of eighteen feet.