institutions, discoveries and inventions, customs, festivals, geographical exploration and other matters appropriate to a scientific "Book of Days". We began in 1924 with "Early Science at the Royal Society", and during last year appeared a "Calendar of Geographical Exploration", which was contributed by Miss R. M. Fleming and most admirably fulfilled its purpose. With this issue begins an annual cycle of a different kind relating to natural history in a wide sense, as was understood, for example, by Gilbert White in the notes and letters which make up his famous "Natural History of Selborne". Prof. James Ritchie, Regius professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen, will be chiefly responsible for the weekly notes in this "Calendar of Nature Topics", and Dr. C. E. P. Brooks will deal with meteorological events of topical interest. In addition, we hope to receive occasional notes on such subjects as agriculture, botany, marine biology, fisheries and similar branches of pure and applied natural history from other contributors.

IT is not intended that this year's Calendar shall be of the usual type, recording aspects of Nature or country life week by week in Great Britain, but that it shall take a much wider outlook. The main idea will be to bring together, in chronological sequence throughout the year, observations and conclusions representing ascertained knowledge to-day on the subjects of the notes; and the range of the natural occurrences or phenomena may be that of the whole world. It is unlikely, therefore, that there will be any lack of suitable material; nevertheless, suggestions of topics of interest for inclusion in this new Calendar, or short notes which might be used, would be helpful and should be sent to Prof. Ritchie at the University of Aberdeen. It need scarcely be said that any such communications should be sent well in advance of the dates to which they refer.

Centenary of Legendre, 1752-1833

THE centenary occurs on January 10 of the death of the eminent French mathematician, Adrien Marie Legendre, whose labours over a period of sixty years were contemporary with those of Lagrange and Laplace, with whom he formed part of "that constellation of mathematical talent of which Paris was for more than two generations the main centre". Legendre was eighty years of age when he died, having been born at Toulouse on September 18, 1752. He was educated at the Collège Mazarin and at the age of twenty-five became a professor at the military school in Paris. He published his first important memoir, on attractions, in 1783, and in that year he was elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences. Four years later, with Cassini and Mechain, he was appointed to conduct the geodetical operations for connecting the Observatories of Paris and Greenwich. Through this he visited London, and was made a foreign member of the Royal Society. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he passed through the Revolution unscathed and by his writings and his work on commissions continued to add to his reputation. In 1795 he became a member of the staff of the famous Ecole Normale. His chief works were his "Géométrie" (1794), which was translated into English by Thomas Carlyle, his "Théorie des Nombres" (1798), "Calcul Intégral" (1811–1826) and "Fonctions Elliptiques" (1825–26). A few weeks before his death he added to the last of these another volume, which contained some of the researches of the younger mathematicians, Abel and Jacobi, the value of whose work Legendre quickly recognised. Among the best-known pupils of Legendre were Cauchy and Arago. The death of Legendre took place at his house at Auteuil.

Sir Henry Roscoe, 1833-1915

AMONG those whose efforts aroused Great Britain to a realisation of the value of scientific education few did more than Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe, whose birth took place in London on January 7, 1833, a century ago. The son of a judge and a grandson of William Roscoe the historian, he got his second christian name from a great-grandfather, Dr. Enfield, a colleague of Priestley's at Warrington. He was sent first to Liverpool High School and afterwards to University College, London, where he came under the influence of Graham and Williamson. Later, he spent some time under Bunsen, working in the historic old laboratory at Heidelberg where "beneath the stone floor at our feet slept the dead monks, and on their tombstones we threw our waste precipitates". Returning from Germany, Roscoe at the age of twenty-four years was appointed to succeed Frankland at Owens College, Manchester, a position he held with conspicuous success for thirty years. He was one of the foremost in engendering a spirit of research and many of his students afterwards rose to high rank. His collaboration with Dittmar, Harden and Schorlemmer, the first professor of organic chemistry in Great Britain, led to the publication of many notable works some of which are still sought after. One of his achievements as an experimentalist was the isolation for the first time of vanadium. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1863 and awarded a Royal medal in 1874; he served as president of the Society of Chemical Industry in 1881, and as president of the Chemical Society in 1882. He was elected member of parliament for South Manchester in 1885; in 1887, the year in which he retired from Owens College, he was president of the British Association. He was a member of various Royal commissions, and from 1896 until 1902 was Vice-Chancellor of the University of London. His eightieth birthday was marked by the presentation of his bust to the Chemical Society. He died on December 18, 1915, at Woodcote Lodge, West Horsley, Surrey, and was buried four days later in Brookwood Cemetery.

North Atlantic Gale

THE last day of the old year and the first few days of the new have proved remarkably tempestuous on the North Atlantic. During the near approach to Ireland on December 31 of an exceptionally intense