

being discussed but educability, and that this, possibly, is not associated with originality and critical judgment. He then outlines the sort of experimental procedure which might be adopted if the experiment suggested were undertaken. Prof. Tait, of McGill University, following the lead of Prof. Dunn, replies without answering, which is perhaps just as well.

Surely, when the editor of the *Countryman* uses the phrase "principles of breeding" he means the objectives in breeding, for the principles are the same whether one breeds for intelligence or for intestinal length; and what does he really mean by "the dog's point of view"? Would a bulldog prefer to be an Alsatian, or the Pekinese a whippet? Dr. Darling's views concerning the extravagant and the fantastic make him remarkable amongst men. It is solely because man has always been attracted by these that he has perpetuated them to produce such pleasing variety amongst domesticated birds and beasts. He may not like the Pekinese, but many people do, and so does the Pekinese, and he is far from miserable so far as we can judge. We have selected and fixed by breeding those characters of the dog that pleased or advantaged us; quaintnesses of all kinds, as well as special abilities. Every kind of combination of form and behaviour exists. By segregation and recombination new breeds could be manufactured, and by continued selection most of the qualities exhibited by the dog could be emphasised. That such a great variety of types exists is merely a reflection of the fact that different people have different ideas as to what constitutes attraction in a dog. The world would be a much duller place if all the dogs in it were hill collies.

There is, however, the germ of a really serious question in the musings of the editor of the *Countryman*, for show standards commonly do tend to demand a grade of physiological extravagance that is distinctly undesirable and, in certain instances, even definitely pathological. Quite serious defects and derangements can easily be bred into a stock to its detriment: deafness in the bull terrier, cleft palate in the bulldog, disharmony between the size of pelvis and the size of fetus in the 'toys'. The exceedingly long ear-flaps of the spaniel lead to the development of hæmatomata and canker; the short bowed legs of the Scottie are associated with the development of interdigital cysts; the short-faced breeds suffer sadly from respiratory diseases, for the reason, it may be assumed, that they lack a proper air filtering and warming apparatus; and the fleece of the Old English sheep dog is the ideal home of external parasites. No show standard should be allowed to continue which inevitably demands a high lethality in the breed or an obvious discomfort to the individual.

University and Educational Intelligence

ABERDEEN.—Prof. James R. Matthews, professor of botany in the University of Reading, has been appointed regius professor of botany in succession to the late Prof. W. G. Craib.

LONDON.—Mr. David Brunt, since 1919 superintendent of the Army Services Division at the Meteorological Office, has been appointed University professor of meteorology (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) as from October 1, 1934. Dr. R. J. Lythgoe, since 1928 honorary lecturer at

University College, has been appointed University reader in the physiology of the sense organs at the College as from October 1, 1933.

The title of 'Fellow of University College, London' has been conferred on the following, among others: Mr. C. B. Collett, chief mechanical engineer of the Great Western Railway; Dr. E. Mallett, principal of the Woolwich Polytechnic and head of the Electrical Engineering Department, formerly reader in electrical engineering, City and Guilds (Engineering) College; Mr. H. J. Page, in charge of the Imperial Chemical Industries Experimental Station for Agricultural Research at Jealott's Hill, formerly head of the Chemical Department of the Rothamsted Experimental Station; and Dr. A. S. Parkes, a member of the staff of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mount Vernon, Hampstead, formerly Sharpey scholar and honorary lecturer in physiology, University College, London.

The title of 'Honorary Fellow of University College, London' has been conferred on the following: Prof. Karl Pearson, professor of applied mathematics and mechanics at University College, London in 1884–1911; Galton professor of eugenics in the University of London in 1911–33; and Sir Flinders Petrie, Edwards professor of Egyptology at University College, London, in 1893–1933.

OXFORD.—At the meeting of Congregation held on February 20, a decree moved by the Master of Balliol postponing the operation of certain portions of the Forestry Statute which was passed by Congregation on February 13 until August 1, gave occasion to a further discussion on the merits of the Statute. Prof. R. V. Southwell opposed the decree on the ground that the new Forestry Committee should have the opportunity of expressing its opinion on the question of the site. He also pointed out that under the new Statute it was uncertain whether the professor of forestry would be able to exercise an effective control. Moreover, under the conditions of the Statute, the security of tenure of the staff of the Institute was incompletely provided for. The honour of the University would not have been compromised by the rejection of the Statute, inasmuch as Congregation had a perfect right to a free vote on the matter.

Dr. H. V. Denham, director of the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, said that the experience of his department showed that the new forestry scheme might be expected to work successfully. Prof. F. A. Lindemann complained that the Boards of Faculty concerned had not had the opportunity of seeing the Statute before it was proposed. The Master of Balliol, replying on the whole debate, reminded the House that objections to the Statute should have been brought in the form of amendments, and not have been deferred until the Statute had passed.

The Vice-Chancellor having ruled that even if the decree were thrown out, the existing Board of Governors, and not the new Forestry Committee, would be concerned in the question of the site, the opposition was withdrawn, and the decree passed without a division.

At the same meeting of Congregation, the gift by the Royal Society of £200 for astrographic work in the University Observatory was gratefully accepted.

In the *University Gazette* of February 21, the Hebdomadal Council gives notice that it has appointed a committee to collect evidence of the probable future building requirements of the University.