

At St. John's College, A. V. Stephens has been elected to a fellowship. Mr. Stephens gained a first class in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos in 1930 with distinction in aeronautics and the award of the Seeley Prize. For the last three years he has been engaged in scientific research at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, and has conducted experiments and published papers on the spinning of aeroplanes.

In Congregation on May 11, the degree of Sc.D. was conferred on John Read (Emmanuel College), professor of chemistry in the University of St. Andrews and formerly professor of organic chemistry in the University of Sydney. Prof. Read is the author of publications on organic chemistry and historical chemistry, and is known also for his original investigations on stereochemistry, terpene chemistry, and the chemistry of Australasian natural products.

SHEFFIELD.—Mrs. Edward Mellanby has been appointed honorary lecturer in the Department of Physiology.

THE following Commonwealth Fund Fellowships, among others, tenable by British graduates in American Universities for the two years beginning September 1934, have recently been awarded: R. N. Arnold (Glasgow and Sheffield) to the University of Illinois, in engineering; Stewart Bates (Glasgow and Edinburgh), to Harvard University, in economics; J. H. Brown (Glasgow and Oxford), to the University of California, in philosophy; Philip Chantler (Manchester) to Harvard University, in economics; C. J. M. Fletcher (Oxford) to the University of California, in chemistry; E. N. Fox (Cambridge), to the University of Michigan, in engineering; E. G. Hancox (Liverpool and Imperial College of Science and Technology), to the University of Arizona, in geology; Joseph McGinn (Armstrong College, Newcastle), to Harvard University, in business administration; F. G. W. Smith (Imperial College of Science and Technology), to Princeton University, in zoology; A. D. Thackeray (Cambridge), to the California Institute of Technology, in astrophysics; J. C. Trevor (Oxford), to Northwestern University, in anthropology; A. G. M. Weddell (St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College), to the University of Rochester, in medicine; Shaun Wylie (Oxford), to Princeton University, in mathematics.

The following have been appointed to fellowships tenable by candidates from the British Dominions: M. M. Burns (New Zealand and Aberdeen), to Cornell University, in agriculture; James Melville (New Zealand and Imperial College of Science and Technology), to Yale University, in biochemistry.

The following have been appointed to fellowships tenable by candidates holding appointments in Government service overseas: J. D. W. A. Coles (Witwatersrand and Department of Agriculture, South Africa), to Washington University, in veterinary science; Dr. R. H. Le Pelley (Imperial College of Science and Technology and Department of Agriculture, Kenya Colony), to the University of Illinois, in entomology; H. E. McMillan (Saskatchewan and the Department of Agriculture, Canada), to the University of California, in entomology; E. A. Moore (Bristol and the Irrigation Department, Bengal), to the University of Illinois, in engineering; C. W. O. Turner (Wales and the Public Works Department, New Zealand), to Stanford University, in engineering.

Science News a Century Ago

Poinsot and Poisson

Among the journals of a century ago which recorded scientific events were the *Athenæum*, from which the following note is taken. It was at a sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences on May 20 that M. Poinsot commenced reading his memoir, a "New Theory of the Rotation of Bodies", in which he presented new views. Having arrived at these by a direct consideration of the nature of rotation, M. Poinsot launched out into praise of the mode of discovery and spoke at the same time in terms rather slightly of the analytic and algebraic modes of examining a question. M. Poisson, an academician of the analytic school, took fire at these reflections and came down the next week with refutations. M. Poinsot rejoined, instancing a mistake made by D'Alembert. During the discussion, divers allusions, so the writer said, were made such as in a certain honourable house would have called for the interference of the 'Speaker'. Upon the whole, the synthetic method seemed to have had the best of the argument, although M. Libri, the Florentine geometer, joined his anger and argument to those of M. Poisson.

London Mechanics Institution

The tenth anniversary of this institution, now known as Birkbeck College, was held in the theatre of the institution in Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, on May 22, 1834. Dr. Birkbeck presided over an audience which included many distinguished literary and scientific men. After some preliminary remarks by Dr. Birkbeck and the award of the prizes, five resolutions were passed. The third of these was "that the manifestation of talent developed within the walls of this institution shown on the present, as on former occasions, is a proof of the wisdom of the plan here first widely called into practice of disseminating useful science through the industrious classes of the community and gives substantial earnest that through the agency of these self-ruled and self-supported establishments the barbarism of ignorance, with its concomitants, vice and misery, will be more rapidly dispelled and the moral, the intellectual, and the social condition of man be raised to that higher level which becomes his character as a rational and responsible being". By the fifth resolution the meeting offered "its unalloyed congratulations to Dr. Birkbeck on the steady advancement and the present state of this flourishing and useful institution over which he has from its foundation paternally and anxiously presided without deviation, and that the most hearty thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby presented to that able individual for the powerful assistance given to this institution on this and every occasion".

The Franklin Institute

At the monthly conversation meeting of the Franklin Institute held at Philadelphia on May 22, 1834, Prof. Johnson made experiments on the centrifugal force of liquids, in refutation of certain statements made by M. Thayer, in a paper read to the French Institute, an outline of which had been given in the *Revue Encyclopedie* of September 1833. The liquids used were oil, water, alcohol and mercury,