

University and Educational Intelligence

CAMBRIDGE.—The title of Stokes lecturer in mathematics has been conferred on Dr. M. Born.

Prof. E. A. Owen, professor of physics at University College, Bangor, of Trinity College, has been approved for the degree of Sc.D.

The subject for the Sedgwick Prize for the year 1937 is "The Application of Modern Technique to the Elucidation of Some Specific Geological Problem". The prize is open to all graduates of the University, and essays are to be sent in on October 1, 1936.

OXFORD.—The question of the provision of sites in the University Park for the extension of the science departments, which has lately given rise to much discussion, has been settled by the adoption of certain decrees by Congregation. By these it is provided that, in addition to the area at present reserved, a further area on the western frontage should be allotted for such extension when required, while the remainder of the Park should be declared a public open space. This arrangement has been approved without opposition, though it would appear that if the requisite negotiations under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, are carried through, the University will to some extent have forgone its freedom of action with respect to the portion not reserved for science.

THE following International Lady Tata Memorial Scholarships, each of the value of £400 for the academic year 1934–35, for research work in diseases of the blood with special reference to leukaemias, have been awarded: Dr. W. Büngeler (Danzig), Dr. L. Doljanski (Copenhagen), Dr. M. C. G. Israels (Manchester), Dr. C. Oberling (Paris), Dr. J. Engelbreth-Holm (Copenhagen), Dr. M. O. K. Jørgensen (Aarhus, Jutland), Dr. R. Meier (Leipzig), Dr. Lucy Wills (London).

"LEHRFREIHEIT" manifestoes by organisations representing twenty-two thousand American professors have been recently promulgated. They are reviewed in a Press *communiqué* circulated on March 12 by the Institute of International Education of New York. Specific reference to any foreign country is avoided, but recent events in Germany are doubtless responsible for these declarations, which do not ignore the fact that the United States itself is not immune from attacks upon academic freedom. The following excerpts are typical: American Association for the Advancement of Science—"Our existing liberties have been won through ages of struggle and at enormous cost. If these are lost or seriously impaired there can be no hope of continued progress in science, of justice in government, or international or domestic peace, or even of lasting material well-being. . . . Whether by governmental action, administrative coercion or extra-legal violence, we feel it our duty to denounce all such actions as intolerable forms of tyranny." American Political Science Association—"Every people has the right to live under the form of government it selects for itself. It is not for outsiders to object because they do not like it. But it is reasonable to deplore an action anywhere that may be absolutely destructive of gains in human progress that have been made only by great sacrifice. Freedom of teaching is one such gain."

Science News a Century Ago

Sir Gilbert Blane, F.R.S.

June 26 marks the centenary of the death of Sir Gilbert Blane, F.R.S., who with Robert Lind contributed more than anyone else to naval medicine and hygiene and the welfare of seamen. He was born at Blanefield, Argyllshire, on August 26, 1749, and received his medical education at Edinburgh under the celebrated William Cullen. After obtaining his M.D. degree at Glasgow in 1778, he went to London, became private physician to Sir George Rodney and accompanied him on a voyage to the West Indies. On his return, he submitted to the Board of Admiralty a memorial on the lack of cleanliness, ventilation and dryness in ships, the need for a supply of lemon juice for the prevention and treatment of scurvy, the prevalence of drunkenness, the inadequate care of the sick aboard ship, the absence of proper bedding and soap, and the need of a free supply of medicines and other necessaries to naval surgeons. In 1782 he left Plymouth with Rodney and remained on active service until the end of the War with the American Colonies, during which time he collected materials for his principal work entitled "Observations on Diseases of Seamen" published in 1785. This book consisted of three parts, devoted respectively to the health and diseases of the Fleet during the years 1780–83, the causes and prevention of diseases in fleets, and the description and treatment of affections such as fevers, dysentery and scurvy, most frequently seen at sea. During the last forty years of his life, Blane was frequently consulted by the Government and others on various aspects of public health, especially in connexion with the Navy.

Babbage and Parliament

In his "Passages from the Life of a Philosopher", Babbage gives an entertaining account of the elections in which he took part. On more than one occasion he was invited to become a candidate for Parliament, and on June 27, 1834, was nominated for Finsbury. In proposing his name, Mr. F. O. Martin said that although Mr. Babbage had never been in Parliament before, that did not take from his utility. He had, however, laboured to serve the public in other capacities, and had the honour of being the successor in an office formerly filled by the illustrious Newton. He was an advocate for the emancipation of the Jews, and the removal of the disabilities affecting their Dissenting brethren.

The candidature of Babbage was not regarded with favour in some quarters, as there were three other candidates; and in the end his name appeared at the bottom of the poll with 379 votes, while the two successful candidates secured 2,514 and 1,915 votes respectively. In his "Passages", when recalling that he afterwards declined the honour of standing for Stroud, he wrote: "I was not particularly desirous of wasting my time for the benefit of my country. The constituency of Finsbury had already expressed their opinion that Mr. Wakley and Mr. Thomas Duncombe were fitter than myself to represent them in Parliament, and in that decision I most cordially concurred."

Travels of Lieut. A. Burnes

On June 28, 1834, the *Athenæum* began a long review of the "Travels into Bokhara" of Lieut.