University and Educational Intelligence

LONDON.—The following degrees have recently been awarded: D.Sc. degree in astrophysics to C. S. Beals (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for works entitled "The Wolf Rayet Stars" (*Pub. D.A.O.*, 1930), and "Spectrophotometric Studies of Wolf Rayet Stars and Novæ" (*Pub. D.A.O.*, 1934); D.Sc. degree in biochemistry to G. M. Richardson (University College and Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for six works on biochemistry (*Proc. Roy. Soc.*, B, 1934, and *Biochem. J.*, 1931–33); D.Sc. degree in chemistry to T. Malkin (private study) for five published papers dealing with the application of X-rays to structural problems of organic chemistry, together with ten conjoint subsidiary contributions.

SIR WALTER HAMILTON MOBERLY, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, has been appointed chairman of the University Grants Committee in succession to the late Sir Walter Buchanan Riddell.

THE Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland in its thirty-second annual report directs special attention to the operation during the last five years of its schemes for the endowment of post-graduate research. The principal scheme, under which fellowships, scholarships and grants are awarded, has now been operating for thirty years, during which period scientific investigation in the universities by 1,162 persons has been subsidised by this means to the extent of more than a quarter of a million sterling, the expenditure for the six quinquennia beginning 1903–8 having been: £27,754, £35,698, £27,540, £39,465, £51,047 and £69,268. "What this has meant to the enrichment of the intellectual life of the Scottish universities may in part be inferred," says the report, "from the fact that the total publications received have numbered 227 volumes and 2,002 other original contributions." The problem has been, not to find suitable and well-qualified applicants, but to find sufficient means to finance them, and in order that the amount available should meet the requirements of the situation so far as possible, the value of the individual awards for 1932–33 was reduced, fellows' stipends being lowered from £300 to £250, senior scholarships from £200 to £175 and other scholarships from £175 to £150; and it has now been found necessary to place all scholarships on the uniform level of £150. A welcome indication of better times is afforded by the fact that resignations on account of appointment to salaried posts have again become numerous. Other financial aids to research are provided by the Trust in the shape of grants towards the maintenance of the laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, amounting during the last quinquennium to £9,369, and awards to university assistants and lecturers devoting not less than half their time to research, amounting during the same period to £18,329.

EDUCATION in India in 1927–32 is reviewed by Sir G. Anderson, Educational Commissioner with the Government of India in a volume of 274 pages obtainable from the Manager of Publications, Delhi (price 5*s*.). The situation and tendencies disclosed by the review afford but scanty ground for satisfaction with the past or confidence in the future: some are characterised as alarming and there is no support for the theory that the progress of education is qualifying the people of India to rule themselves. Economic distress has been made an excuse for indiscriminate retrenchment instead of being used as an occasion for restraining wasteful and ineffective expenditure, the prevalence of which was demonstrated by the Hartog Committee of 1928. Among instances cited are: the continuance unchecked in Bengal of a reckless and impetuous multiplication of primary schools regardless of quality; the retention of numerous primary schools with only three classes although well known to be almost wholly useless; filling of a large percentage of primary school places with pupils much too old to benefit by the instruction; a growing tendency towards communal separation, involving scandalous waste and inefficiency; the rapid increase in the number of students who throng the colleges and high schools without the qualifications requisite for deriving benefit from the instruction. Since the transfer of educational control in 1921 from the central to the local government, there has been a rapid growth of provincial particularism which may have fostered local initiative but has involved overlapping and extravagance particularly in regard to university education. A strong central educational intelligence service is badly needed. One of the most disastrous faults found throughout the secondary school systems is the preoccupation with the goal of university entrance qualification to the exclusion of all other aims. Ample evidence is to be found in the report that "the educational systems of India need to be recast and adjusted to the requirements of new conditions".

Science News a Century Ago

Death of Sir John Barton

On August 25, 1834, Sir John Barton died at Windsor Castle. He was buried in the cloisters of St. George's Chapel and a memorial tablet was erected to him by command of William IV. For forty-six years he had served as secretary and treasurer first to William IV when he was Duke of Clarence and then to Queen Adelaide. He was born at Plymouth in 1771. At one time Barton was comptroller of the Mint and he made several improvements in coining machinery. One obituary notice of him said that he was the inventor of a floating compass, a hydrostatic balance, a hydrostatic floating lamp, a draw-bench for use at the Mint and an "atometer" with which a millionth of an inch was rendered a sensible measure to the eye. He originated the ornamental effect produced by the decomposition of the rays of light reflected from polished metallic surfaces covered with a series of very minute lines or grooves, ruled upon them by a diamond point, and also a method of producing a cube in a lathe, which he applied to a scheme for the prevention of the forgery of Bank of England notes, by engraving upon these cubes and printing from them an interpolated coloured line.

Whewell on Tides

IN his researches on the tides, Whewell asked for observations made in various parts of the world, and in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* a letter was published from Prof. A. D. Bache addressed to the Committee of Publications. Writing on August 26, 1834, Prof. Bache said: "It is no doubt well known to you, and to those of your readers who follow the