

get their deserts if openly discussed; but if they are suppressed they will permeate society through insidious channels and do irreparable injury. Freedom to think, freedom to voice one's thoughts within reason, are essential to human progress.

The Conference approved the recommendations of the "Report on Policy in Technical Education" recently published by the Associations of Technical Institutions, Teachers in Technical Institutions, and Principals of Technical Institutions and the National Society of Art Masters. Among other resolutions passed was included one urging the establishment of a system of compulsory part-time day education for all young persons from the age of ceasing compulsory attendance at schools giving full-time education to the date at which the pupil attains the age of eighteen years. The Association reiterated its opinion that the raising of the school leaving age is more than ever desirable. In view of Mr. Lloyd's address, special interest centred about a resolution urging that the conditions of apprenticeship should be restated for the several industries, and that special consideration should be given to the claims of young people who have satisfactorily completed a full-time course in approved technical institutions in respect of the age at which they may be recruited, and the period of time required of them for completion of apprenticeship.

University and Educational Intelligence

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. Leslie Harris, director of the Nutritional Laboratory, has been awarded the degree of Sc.D. Dr. Harris is known for his work on vitamins and proteins, and for the latter was awarded the Meldola Medal by the Institute of Chemistry in 1924.

EDINBURGH.—Dr. Otto Samson has been appointed Tweedie fellow for 1935–36 and 1936–37. This fellowship is awarded to enable the holder to carry out exploration and research in the less-known regions of Asia and northern Africa. Dr. Otto Samson was born in Hamburg in 1900, and studied political science and then Oriental languages at the University there. In 1928 he entered the famous Ethnographical Museum (Museum für Völkerkunde) in Hamburg, and in 1930 became head of the East Asiatic Section, a post he held until the Nazi revolution in 1933. In 1931–32 he travelled in China to collect ethnographic specimens for the Museum. In the course of his travels he made an intimate study of the daily life of peasants and craftsmen and of the technical processes employed by them. An examination of the data then collected suggested connexions with India reflected in craft and agricultural processes and their products. It is the extent and direction of the influence of China upon India and vice versa that Dr. Samson now proposes to study.

LONDON.—The Governing Body of the Imperial College of Science and Technology has elected to an Imperial College fellowship Prof. Alfred Fowler, late Yarrow professor of the Royal Society, and emeritus professor of astrophysics in the College.

OXFORD.—The new solar tower telescope was opened at the University Observatory by the Vice-Chancellor on June 11 (see p. 1047).

Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell (scholar 1884–88), and Prof. N. V. Sidgwick (scholar 1892–96) have been elected honorary students (that is, fellows) of Christ Church.

The course of lectures on the work of early Oxford men of science finished for the session with Dr. R. T. Gunther's lecture at Exeter College. Special reference was made to the work of Borlase on the antiquities and mineralogy, and of Walter Moyle on the ornithology of Cornwall. Of outstanding importance was the advance in the science of geology due to Sir Charles Lyell, while the history of mathematics and astronomy owes much to Prof. Steven Rigaud, whose library was dispersed by the Radcliffe Trustees less than two months ago. Dr. Gunther concluded with a tribute to the biologists, Prof. H. N. Moseley of *Challenger* fame, Sir Baldwin Spencer of Australia and Sir Ray Lankester—all of Exeter College.

THE University of Pittsburgh has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Dr. William A. Hamor, assistant director of Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh.

MR. H. G. ROBINSON has been appointed principal of the Midland Agricultural College, Loughborough, in succession to the late Dr. T. Milburn. Mr. Robinson, who is a graduate of the University of Durham, is a son of Mr. G. Goland Robinson, a well-known south Westmorland farmer. Since 1929, he has been farm director in the Midland Agricultural College.

Science News a Century Ago

Portrait of Count Rumford

In June 1835, the Managers of the Royal Institution received and accepted from Sarah, Countess Rumford, the portrait of her father, Count Rumford, the founder of the Institution, which hangs now in the Managers' room. The painting, which presents the Count in uniform, is of head and shoulders in profile. It is by an unknown artist, but is believed to be a good likeness. Count Rumford, who died in Paris in 1814, had kept the lease of his house at Brompton, although he had not lived in it for many years. His daughter occupied it again in 1815, and lived there at intervals until 1835. In that year she returned to America, presenting the portrait to the Royal Institution as a parting gift.

Roberts's Miners' Safety Lamp

According to *The Times*, on June 23, 1835, a lecture was given to the Eastern Literary and Scientific Institution by Mr. Taylor in the room usually used by the Institution in Hackney Road. "The subject of the lecture was the safety lamp, and the object of the lecture was to show, by actual experiment, that the lamp hitherto used in coal-mines, and invented by Sir H. Davy, is dangerous and insecure, and that a lamp invented by Mr. Roberts is perfectly safe and free from the defects which render the lamp of Sir H. Davy not to be depended on by the miners. Mr. Roberts, who has already received several medals from the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, was in attendance and produced the lamp invented by Sir H. Davy and his own lamp, and assisted Mr. Taylor in the lecture and in the experiments."