

THAT biology should be taught in all schools to all pupils is one of the conclusions of the argument developed by Dr. C. J. Bond, Fernshaw, Springfield, Road, Leicester, in an address delivered to Section L at the Aberdeen meeting of the British Association last year. The address is now obtainable in pamphlet form. Young people suffer to-day from no sound biological foundation having been laid during school life for, at any rate, three departments of life in civilised societies: (1) sex, marriage and parenthood, (2) citizenship, (3) vocation. For (1) the foundation should include instruction in the general principles of genetics, including human heredity, with examples drawn from plant and animal life, and wise advice and guidance should be made available during school life and to young persons of both sexes who wish to marry. As regards citizenship, our present system of national education is marred by a lack of continuity and completeness answerable for the existence of a false conception in many minds of the real nature of individual liberty and of conflict of individual, social and racial interests. Vocational guidance is obviously more important for the welfare of the young citizen and prevention of waste of human capacity than examination of scholastic acquirements. It can only be given by skilled experts able to assess natural aptitudes and equipped with technical knowledge of the conditions and requirements of the diverse occupations open to 'school leavers', and this combination of psychological and technical knowledge must be acquired during and after the period spent in teacher training colleges by teachers specially interested in industrial life and vocational guidance. The address touches also on the steadily increasing ratio of old to young in the population, on biology and culture, on education in the right use of leisure and the limits of what can be achieved by education.

## Science News a Century Ago

### The Linnean Society

On February 3, 1835, at a meeting of the Linnean Society at which A. B. Lambert was in the chair, B. H. Hodgson, Dr. Kidd of Oxford and R. Garner, whose paper "On the Nervous Structure of Molluscous Animals" had lately been read, were elected fellows of the Society. The secretary read a paper by Mr. Bentham of the Horticultural Society "On the Various Species of the Genus *Lotus*, and the Allied Genera". The chairman exhibited the flowers and leaves of *Dracæna terminalis*, a plant from the islands of the Pacific successfully cultivated at his own residence in Wiltshire. The flowers were used by the natives of the islands, he said, to flavour a liquid like beer, and the fibres of the long leaves served as threads. Profs. Bartoloni, Fries, Harlan, Harrold, Lichtenstein and Reinwardt, with Baron Delessert, were nominated to fill the vacancies in the list of foreign members.

### Meteorology at the Cape of Good Hope

Writing from Edinburgh on February 5, 1835, to Sir John Herschel at the Cape, J. D. Forbes said: "I had a letter from Whewell the other day, communicating your obliging message to me about your very interesting meteorological results. . . . The annual variation of mean pressure and also of hourly oscillation you mention is noticed by Humbolt in equatorial climates. Is the barometer highest in

summer or winter? I fear we are likely to find little analogous to your observations at the Cape in the Mediterranean. The oscillation is undoubtedly greater: and I do not think the barometer is highest in bad weather. The variable pressure in different latitudes is a very important and to me, till lately, an unexpected fact. I hope that you will be able to bring your barometer safely home again, and so determine the height of your observatory. I hope you have your actinometer with you; here it has a sinecure, there being no sun worth measuring."

### Henry's Electrical Experiments

On February 7, 1835, Prof. A. D. Bache wrote to the Committee of Publications of the Franklin Institute saying that "The American Philosophical Society, at their last stated meeting, authorised the following abstract of a verbal communication made to the Society by Professor Henry on the sixteenth of January last. A memoir on this subject has been since submitted to the Society containing an extension of the subject, the primary fact in relation to which was observed by Professor Henry as early as 1832, and announced by him in the American Journal of Science. Mr. Faraday having recently entered upon a similar train of observations, the immediate publication of the accompanying is important, that the prior claims of our fellow countryman may not be overlooked". Bache's letter was followed by an abstract from the report of the meeting of the American Philosophical Society which contained details of Henry's experiments with electric currents.

### Death of Baron Dupuytren

On February 8, 1835, Baron Guillaume Dupuytren, the foremost surgeon in France, died in Paris. Born in humble circumstances at Pierre Buffière in Limousin on October 6, 1777, it is said that he was stolen when three by a lady of rank, but was afterwards recovered by his parents. Both in appearance and by his conversation he attracted the attention of people, and at the age of twelve years through the action of an army officer he was sent to the Collège de la Marche in Paris, and his youth was thus passed amidst the turmoil of the French Revolution. Subsisting on the most meagre of allowances, he was, however, able to study chemistry and anatomy and at the age of seventeen years, in 1794, obtained a post in the new School of Medicine founded under the direction of Fourcroy. From then his progress was unchecked. In 1803 he was made an assistant surgeon at the Hôtel-Dieu, in 1811 succeeded Sabatier in the professorship of operative surgery and in 1815 he was given the chair of clinical surgery, which he held until his death. He was also surgeon to Louis XVIII. "Haughty, austere, and brooking no rivals," says Seelig, "he trod through life always upwards, charming by his very disdain and constantly introducing technical innovations that have stood the test of time. By a queer twist of fate, one of the least significant of his accomplishments, a description of contracted palmar fascia, is the one to which his name has clung". The perseverance he had shown amid the difficulties of his early years was not more notable than the assiduity with which he always carried out his duties and the iron resolution which astonished all who came in contact with him. He was buried in the Père Lachaise cemetery, and a part of his large fortune was used for the founding of the Musée Dupuytren near the École de Médecine, Paris.