reappointed university demonstrator in ethnology for one year from October 1.

A reader in statistics is to be appointed for five years from the first day of Michaelmas Term, 1935, the warden and fellows of All Souls having undertaken to provide a stipend of £600 a year for that period.

In continuation of his course of lectures on the scientific contributions of members of the Oxford colleges, Dr. R. T. Gunther, reader in the history of science, in a recent lecture directed special attention to the work of Robert Plot, John Radcliffe and Edmund Cartwright, all of University College, and respectively a great natural historian, a most munificent benefactor and an eminent inventor. At the same time the lecturer expressed his regret that the present Radcliffe Trustees should not have considered it their duty as managers of a charitable trust to preserve intact the historical scientific library of Prof. Stephen Rigaud, which they had purchased for far less money than it has now realised in a public sale-room.

UNEMPLOYMENT among young university graduates formed the subject of the deliberations of the Committee of International Students' Organisations at its meeting on April 10–11. As regards the possibilities of limiting the attendance of students at universities, the Committee urged that it would be both harmful and dangerous to endeavour to place restrictions on those who could rightly claim to attend the universities, and it disapproved of the imposition of a bar against women or against certain classes of the population on grounds of race or opinion. As a remedy for unemployment among intellectual workers, it recommended the establishment of university and professional information centres in the various countries, and suggested that public authorities or mutual aid societies should undertake the direction of certain branches of intellectual work for which private individuals have not the means to provide. Further, it suggested the adoption of measures by universities or student organisations for training young intellectual workers for their professions in country districts or colonies such as the 'social groups' in France, the 'educational missions' in Spain, or the 'frontier colleges' in Canada. Another recommendation was that bilateral or plurilateral agreements should be framed regarding the equivalence of university degrees, the exercise of professions abroad, and the employment of intellectual workers in foreign countries. The Committee urged international organisations of students and intellectual workers to consider the possibility of establishing an international organisation for securing work on the basis of the general information which might be supplied by the International Labour Office.

Science News a Century Ago

University of London

On May 18, 1835, *The Times* said, "Yesterday the annual distribution of the medals and prizes to the successful candidates in the medical and surgical departments took place at the London University; Lord Nugent presided on the occasion. . . . Immediately after the distribution of the prizes the Chairman rose and addressed the company. His lordship had been about three years from London. At his departure the London University was in a state of infancy; at his return he had been highly gratified on finding that it had made so rapid a growth towards maturity. Mr. Thomas Campbell, who had first suggested the foundation of the present establishment, had said, that only two capital cities of Europe had been without universities, London and Constantinople. The reproach was now removed from London, in which two most useful institutions flourished, not in a spirit of opposition to each other, but in a spirit of laudable emulation and generous rivalry."

Progress of Mechanics' Institutions

At the anniversary meeting of the London Mechanics' Institution (now Birkbeck College) held on May 20, 1835, the president, Dr. Birkbeck, is reported to have said that "This establishment was still flourishing, and those elsewhere were becoming more numerous and more prosperous. The most remarkable circumstance connected with the prosperity of mechanics' institutions was the establishment of one at Cambridge, which had received the approbation and patronage of all the great and the wise of that distinguished seminary of learning. . . . Endeavours had been made to establish a mechanics' institution at a place near Bolton, but he (Dr. Birkbeck) had received a letter from the person who made the attempt, stating that the mean rate of wages was only 7*s.* a week, and although the subscription had been dropped from 10*s.* a year to 6*s.*, he could get no subscriptions, nor any donations. . . . At Manchester and Liverpool, however, the progress of these institutions had been great. . . . The number of members belonging to the metropolitan institution was 1,123 exclusive of honorary members; that of Manchester, including honorary members, was 1,232, and that of Liverpool including honorary members, was 1,206."

Theory of Respiration

At a meeting of the Royal Society on May 21, 1835, Dr. William Stevens read the concluding portion of his paper on observations on the theory of respiration. After reviewing the author's remarks on the interaction of the air and the blood and the experiments with which the paper was accompanied, the report in the Society's *Abstracts* said: "According to these views it is neither in the lungs, nor generally in the course of circulation, but only during its passage through the capillary system of vessels, that the blood undergoes the change from arterial to venous; a change consisting in the formation of carbonic acid, by the addition of particles of carbon derived from the solid textures of the body, and which had combined with the oxygen supplied by the arterial blood; and it is by this combination that heat is evolved, as well as a dark colour imparted to the blood. The author ascribes, however, the bright red colour of arterial blood, not to the action of oxygen which in itself is completely inert as a colouring agent, but to that of the saline ingredients naturally contained in healthy blood. On arrival at the lungs, the first change induced in the blood is effected by the oxygen of the atmospheric air, and consists of the removal of the carbonic acid, which had been the source of the dark colour of the venous blood; and the second consists in the attraction by the blood of a portion of the oxygen, which it absorbs from the air and which takes the place of the carbonic acid."