

McCollum were appointed representatives on this mixed committee, with Sir John Orr and Dr. Mary Schwartz Rose as substitutes. This mixed committee will meet in February 1936 at Geneva.

The modern knowledge of nutrition being still in the stage of development, the Commission had to consider future progress. It drew up a list, in order of priority, of the problems for future study at various scientific institutes already engaged on similar lines of research, with a view to practical progress.

Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—The Lowndean professorship of astronomy and geometry will become vacant by the retirement of Dr. H. F. Baker on September 30, 1936. A meeting of the electors will be held on January 31, 1936. The General Board has recommended and the Council of the Senate has determined, that at this election preference shall be given to candidates whose work is connected with geometry in the widest modern sense. Candidates for the professorship are requested to communicate with the Vice-Chancellor and to send him, on or before January 14, 1936, ten copies of any statement or testimonial which they desire to submit to the electors.

It is recommended by the Faculty Board of Engineering that J. A. G. Haslam, of Corpus Christi College, be appointed assistant in research in the Sub-Department of Aeronautics with a stipend of £500 a year, made up of £300 from the University grant and £200 from Sir John Siddeley's gift for aeronautical research.

SHEFFIELD.—The title of honorary lecturer in physics has been conferred on Dr. W. H. George, Sorby research fellow.

Mr. H. T. Protheroe has been appointed assistant lecturer in metallurgy (founding).

The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, has made a grant of £200 in aid of research in the Department of Pharmacology.

THE annual report of the Yorkshire West Riding County Council on the county minor scholarships examinations, recently issued, records an important advance in the employment of intelligence tests. For the last three years, while an intelligence test has been taken by all candidates, it has been used only as a means of differentiating the border-line cases. This year it has been taken into account in all cases except those where low marks in English and arithmetic precluded the possibility of awarding a scholarship. One effect has been to give the chance of a scholarship to candidates obtaining a high 'intelligence quotient' whose marks in arithmetic and English would not last year have been high enough to bring them within the range of the border-line. The examiners believe that, as a result of the employment of the test, awards have been made only to those candidates who have the necessary ability and educational background to enable them to profit by a secondary school education. Special attention was directed last year to the widely prevalent fault of reading the questions carelessly and of introducing irrelevant matter into the answers. This fault was much less conspicuous this year.

Science News a Century Ago

The Elephant House at the Zoological Gardens

IN the issue of *The Times* of Christmas Day, 1835, is a note on the Zoological Gardens from a correspondent who says: "The elephant has taken possession of the new house which has been prepared for his reception, and he now enjoys the society of the young female of his order presented by His Majesty. The house is by far the best building in the gardens, and is every way worthy of so great a personage. There is a mode of heating it adopted which we understand is perfectly original and seems likely to supersede all other methods in use in warming churches, chapels, and all buildings having incombustible floors. The simplicity of the plan is as remarkable as it is apparently effective and unexceptional. . . . The fuel used is inconceivably small, and the cheapness, simplicity and safety of this new method of heating cannot fail to engage the attention of all scientific and practical men."

A Christmas Experiment in Magnetism

FARADAY notes in his Diary an experiment, made on the day after Christmas 1835, on "the possibility that some metals, not magnetic at common temperatures, might become so at low temperatures". He must have been occupied at the time with preparations for the Juvenile Lectures, for he gave the Christmas course of 1835-36 on electricity; but the day was a very cold one, for he records the temperature as 25° F.; and neither Christmas festivities nor lecture preparations could induce him to forgo so favourable an opportunity. The apparatus was carried up to the roof of the lecture theatre and there, where the fullest advantage of the low out-of-doors temperature could be taken, the experiment was made.

He had a magnetometer with a delicate astatic needle: "This kind of needle was used as the most delicate test". Some wires of various metals were tied up in little bundles with platinum wire. "Then cooled these bundles in liquid sulphurous acid, in watch glasses containing a little mercury also, and when below the freezing point of the mercury, brought them close to the ends of the astatic needle to ascertain if they had become sensibly magnetic; but could not observe the least indication of such an effect, though I think the temperature must occasionally have been 60° or 70° below Zero of Fahrenheit".

New Classification of Animals

ON December 26, 1835, the *Athenæum* stated: "M. de Humboldt has presented to the French Academy of Sciences, in the name of M. Ehrenberg, correspondent of the Academy in Berlin, a table dividing the animal kingdom into 29 classes. This division is founded on the organisation and generality of a type, lying in the sensitive, vascular, locomotive, nutritive, and propagative systems. Twenty-two of the groups belong to animals without vertebræ, which are divided according to the presence or absence of a heart, Cordata and Vasculosa. In the latter, the vessels do not present anything like pulsation, and the digestive organ is either simple and solitary, as in the Tubulata, or divided and multiform, as in