

He has been president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is now president of the National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland. Mr. Craig has been responsible for important researches into diseases of animals in the Irish Free State and has contributed extensively to scientific literature.

SHEFFIELD.—The following appointments have been made: Mr. J. MacD. Croll, to be lecturer in bacteriology; Mr. Mansergh Shaw, to be assistant lecturer in mechanical engineering; Dr. Edward S. Duthie, to be a demonstrator in pathology.

To universities, and the causes they stand for, the series of special university supplements now in course of publication by *Time and Tide* are doing a really valuable service. The third of the series, published with the issue of April 27 under the heading "More and More of Less and Less", elucidates a number of problems, all of first-rate importance, associated with the growth of specialisation in universities. Mr. R. H. S. Crossman's article on "The Problem in Philosophy" sketches with firm lines the situation confronting the modern student of philosophy. Lacking a comprehensive grasp, such as he cannot hope to compass, of the structure of modern scientific thinking, he tends to subside into the rut of history of philosophy on traditional lines or to give himself up to the exploration of the mazes of logistics. A better way is, however, open to him, pending the discovery of means whereby he may be equipped for holding converse with mathematical and physical scientific workers on their own ground: the study of politics and ethics, not *in vacuo* but in relation to contemporary issues. Mr. C. M. Bowra, discussing science and the humanities as studied in the older universities, suggests, *inter alia*, the institution of a course analogous to Oxford's "Modern Greats" combining with philosophy, physics or biology or chemistry. Three other articles deal mainly with conditions of study, in some respects deplorable, in the modern English universities: by Prof. E. R. Dodds on "Departmentalism and Humane Culture", Mr. Pilley on "The Universities and Science" and Mr. Mansell Jones on "'Facts and Skills' or Education". Lastly comes a study of the situation at Durham. A brief retrospect of the salient features of the history of this university is made to illustrate causes and effects of specialisation, and the recent Royal Commission's recommendations are used to point a moral and adorn a tale.

Science News a Century Ago

Progress of Colonel Chesney's Expedition

IN his expedition to the Euphrates in connexion with the project of shortening the passage to India by means of steam navigation, Colonel Chesney had met with some opposition from the Pasha of Egypt, who, however, had given way, and in a letter from "Port William" on the upper Euphrates, dated July 21, 1835, Chesney remarked, "We arrived here four days ago, and the spot where we are at work, has been named as above, in honour of our earliest patron, the King. We are making efforts of no common kind to get afloat, so as to reach Bussora in time to sail from thence upwards, about the 30th of September".

"I put up the little steamer at the Orontes as a sort of hint, that we did not mean to be stopped, but his Highness gave way, and instead of making our steamer take the gear up to Antioch, we broke her into eight sections, and placed them on keelsons and other pieces of timber, with wheels underneath to make their way by land. . . ."

"I do not expect to finish the steamer before we sail downwards, but she will probably be decked and in working trim, as a shell, in which we must rough it as is done here where there are a couple of habitable rooms, some sheds covered with branches, and tents . . . and the whole enclosed by a parapet and ditch, which were thrown up and just completed by one of the officers. . . ."

The Horticultural Society

ON July 21, 1835, a paper was read to the Horticultural Society, by J. Disney, "On the Preservation of the Golden Harvey Apple," a variety so well known for its excellence and general utility that a really good plan for prolonging the period of its maturity was a desideratum.

It was announced that the annual gold medal about to be given by Lord Grey of Groby, for the finest orchideous plants exhibited, had been adjudged to Mr. James Bruce, gardener to Boyd Miller, Esq., of Mitcham, for an extremely fine plant of *Oncidium ciliatum* with forty-four flowers in its panicle which was shown at the meeting on November 4, 1834 (*Athenæum*).

Lyell and the Continental Geologists

WRITING from Paris to Sedgwick on July 23, 1835, Lyell said: "I found here Von Buch, E. de Beaumont, Dufresnoy, Constant Prévost, Virlet, Boué, Alex Brogniart, and have had much talk with all of them, and some warm discussions with Von Buch and de Beaumont. Of the first, I must say that I found much to like in him. As I had handled some of his opinions very roughly, and as he is too much accustomed perhaps to have unbounded deference paid to him by most of his own countrymen, and by no one more so than E. de Beaumont, I had no right to expect a very cordial reception, but he met me with great frankness, and at once set me at ease by vehemently protesting against my numerous and crying heresies, none of which, not even the elevation crater theory, seems to have excited so much honest indignation as my recent attempt to convey some of the huge Scandinavian blocks to their present destination by means of ice. . . ."

James Bowman Lindsay's Electric Light Experiments

THE *Dundee Advertiser* on July 31, 1835, said: "Mr. Lindsay, a teacher in town, formerly lecturer to the Watt Institute, succeeded on the evening of Saturday, July 25, in obtaining a constant electric light. It is upwards of two years since he turned his attention to this subject, but much of that time has been devoted to other avocations. The light in beauty, surpasses all others, has no smell, emits no smoke, is incapable of explosion, and not requiring air for combustion can be kept in sealed glass jars. It ignites without the aid of a taper, and seems peculiarly calculated for flax houses, spinning mills, and other places containing combustible materials. It can be sent to any convenient distance, and the apparatus for producing it can be contained in a common chest".