

The celebrations were admirably organised: the attractive Hungarian national uniform worn by the University officers, the brilliant robes of the cardinals, the white, brown and black vestments of members of monastic orders, and the variety and wealth of colour represented by the gowns and hoods of delegates contributed to the gaiety and splendour of a great occasion. The celebration was an important national event which made a very favourable impression upon the international company and created a feeling of sympathetic interest in the welfare of a courageous nation. Delegates who had the good fortune to be guests of the University in one of the most beautiful of European cities will long retain the pleasantest memories of the friendliness of the Rector Magnificus, the Ministers of State and the University officers with whom they came into contact.

Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—The managers of the Balfour Fund have made a grant of £100 to F. R. Parrington, of Sidney Sussex College, for researches on the fish fauna of the Achenarass quarries.

It is proposed to confer the degrees of M.A. and M.D. *honoris causa* upon Dr. J. A. Ryle, regius professor of physic, and the degree of M.A. on Dr. G. P. McCullagh, University demonstrator in pathology.

LEEDS.—Mr. Frank Stuart Atkinson has been appointed to the chair of mining, in succession to Prof. Ritson, who takes up his appointment at the Royal School of Mines at the beginning of January next. Mr. Atkinson is a qualified mining engineer. He was educated at Chesterfield Grammar School and the University of Sheffield, and has had a long and varied experience of practical work; he has been manager of the Hatfield Main Colliery since February 1927.

LONDON.—The title of Edwards professor of Egyptology in the University has been conferred on Mr. S. R. K. Glanville, in respect of the post held by him at University College.

The title of emeritus professor of bacteriology in the University has been conferred on Dr. J. W. H. Eyre, formerly University professor of bacteriology at Guy's Hospital Medical School; and that of emeritus professor of civil engineering in the University on Mr. A. H. Jameson, who has retired from the University chair of civil engineering at King's College.

OXFORD.—Dr. John Mellanby, professor of physiology in the University of London, has been appointed to the Waynflete professorship of physiology, to hold office from January 1, 1936.

The Council of the Institution of Naval Architects has made the following awards: 1851 Exhibition Commissioners post-graduate scholarship in naval architecture, £250 per annum for two years, to Mr. Harrison Lackenby, of Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Sir William White post-graduate scholarship in naval architecture, £150 per annum for two years, to Mr. Ian C. Bridge, of the University of Glasgow; Earl of Durham Prize, to Mr. D. H. Burnett, of H.M. Dockyard, Devonport.

Science News a Century Ago

Meeting of the Entomological Society

AT a meeting of the Entomological Society held on November 2, 1835, the president, the Rev. F. W. Hope, being in the chair, several communications were read, one of which was a notice of the ravages of the black caterpillar upon the leaves of the turnip in Kent, by W. W. Saunders. "Relative to this communication Mr. Yarrell stated some additional circumstances regarding the destruction of the turnip last summer and autumn, by the insect in question, which were the larvæ of a species of Saw-fly (*Tenthredinidæ*) termed by the farmers 'the blacks'. In the dry summer of 1818 these insects were equally destructive, and so rapid is the destruction caused by them, that in a couple of days a fine field of turnips is reduced to the mere skeleton of the leaves. Mr. Hope gave an account of some other insects which had this year been equally injurious to the turnip in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire and suggested several plans for their destruction."

Beginning of Faraday's Researches on Electrostatics

"HAVE been thinking much lately," wrote Faraday in his Diary on November 3, 1835, "of the relation of common and voltaic electricity; of induction by the former and decomposition by the latter, and am quite convinced that there must be the closest connexion. Will be first needful to make out the true character of ordinary electrical phenomena. The following notes are for experiment and consideration.

"Does common electricity reside upon the surface of a conductor," he went on, "or upon the surface of the electric in contact with it? I think upon the electric, and must work out the results on that view. It will make a great difference in the collation and connexion of the various electrical phenomena and also in their explication."

Then follow a dozen or so pages, written on the same day, of speculation on such points as the effect of the form of a conductor on its electrical behaviour, on the relation of two surfaces under induction, and on the state of the dielectric, or as he called it, the "electric", during the persistence of inductive action. Together with the queries are ideas and suggestions for experiments by which they may be tested.

This was the beginning of Faraday's researches on electrostatics. The work on electrochemistry had been completed early in the year, and very little had been done during the summer months. Now, in the autumn, he was ready to begin again, and the first step was to put down on paper the ideas for experiment that had come crowding to his mind; next, in a few weeks time, he would be devising the necessary apparatus.

New Session of the Geological Society

ON November 4, 1835, the Geological Society held its first meeting of the session. A paper by Dr. Buckland was first read on the discovery of the beaks of four extinct species of fishes, referable to the genus *Chimaera*, and found in the Oolitic and Cretaceous series of England. The paper was accompanied by an appendix by M. Agassiz, describing the distinctive characters of each species.

A communication by Mr. Murchison was next read, containing an account of the quarry in the new red sandstone at Rhone Hill, near Dungannon, in which