

Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—Prof. A. C. Seward has declared his intention of resigning the professorship of botany on September 30.

It is proposed that the degree of Sc.D. *honoris causa* be conferred upon Prof. Ludwig Prandtl, professor of applied mechanics in the University of Göttingen.

OXFORD.—Dr. W. Baker, New College, has been appointed to an official fellowship in chemistry at the Queen's College in succession to Dr. F. D. Chattaway. Dr. Baker, who is a Ph.D. and D.Sc. of the University of Manchester, has been a lecturer and demonstrator at Oxford since 1928.

Dr. U. S. Haslam-Jones, Queen's, has been appointed to an official fellowship in mathematics at the Queen's College in succession to Mr. C. H. Thompson. Dr. Haslam-Jones won the Junior Mathematical and Senior Mathematical University scholarships and has been lecturer in mathematics in the University of Liverpool since 1927.

Dr. L. E. Sutton, Lincoln, has been appointed to a tutorial fellowship in chemistry at Magdalen College in succession to Dr. E. Hope, now a research fellow. Dr. Sutton has been a prize fellow of Magdalen since 1932 and has held a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship. He was recently awarded the Harrison Memorial prize of the Chemical Society.

D. W. Geidt, of Merton College, has been granted the degree of doctor of medicine.

An anonymous donor has given £10,000 towards the establishment of an Institute of Experimental Psychology. Dr. William Brown is to be the director. There will also be an assistant director. It is proposed to add to the endowment £500, and an annual grant of £150 for five years, from the Rockefeller benefaction for research in the social sciences. Further details are to be settled next term.

DR. L. F. BATES, reader in physics, University College, University of London, has been appointed Lancashire-Spencer professor of physics at University College, Nottingham, as from September 1.

At a meeting of the Council of University College, Southampton, on March 2, it was announced that Miss Mary Chamberlain and Miss Charlotte Chamberlain had made a gift of £20,000 for the purpose of building new physics laboratories. Other donations were also announced. The building to house the laboratories will be about a hundred feet square with a rectangular courtyard. There will be two lecture rooms and three students' laboratories, together with a library. Research rooms, workshop, power and battery rooms will be housed on the ground floor.

THE spring conference of the Geographical Association will be held at the University of Sheffield on April 17–20. In addition to a programme of lectures, there will be excursions to steel and cutlery works and a whole-day excursion to the limestone dales and the Peak district of Derbyshire. On the social side there will be a reception by the University and a dinner of the Association. Members will be accommodated so far as possible in one of the University hostels. All communications should be addressed to Miss A. Garnett, The University, Sheffield.

Science News a Century Ago

The Colouring Matter in Leaves and Flowers

ON March 21, 1836, Dr. Hope read a paper to the Royal Society of Edinburgh entitled "Observations and Experiments on the Coloured and Colourable Matters in the Leaves and Flowers of Plants, particularly in Reference to the Principles upon which Acids and Alkalis act in Producing Red and Yellow and Green". After some general remarks, Dr. Hope said that de Candolle had applied the term 'chromule' to the various coloured matters presented by the leaves and flowers of plants. There existed in plants however, in addition to the chromule, some matter properly destitute of colour, which became red by the action of acids and yellow or green by the action of alkalis. To this colourable matter the name 'chromogen' had been given, and the object of the paper was to show that chromogen was not an individual substance; and that there were two distinct principles, one which formed the red compound with acids, which he denominated 'erythrogen'; and another which afforded a yellow compound with alkalis, which he called 'xanthogen'.

Gas Lighting in Ships

ON March 23, 1836, *The Times* said: "A steam-vessel is fitting in the river which is to be lighted by gas, on a plan suggested by Lieutenant Engledue, R.N.; two retorts are placed in the fires under the boilers about two hours before dark, which will supply gas sufficient to burn the whole night, lighting the cabins, engine room and masthead. This may be fitted at a trifling expense, and without the slightest danger, the whole of the apparatus being on deck."

Faraday as a Lecturer

AMONG those who paid tribute to Faraday as a lecturer was the German historian Friedrich von Raumer (1781–1873), whose "Letters on England" were translated into English by Mrs. Sarah Austin (1793–1867), and published in 1836. On March 26, 1836, the *Athenæum*, which had already printed some of Raumer's letters, gave a review of Mrs. Austin's book and quoted the following extract: "Mr. Faraday is not only a man of profound chemical and physical science (which all Europe knows) but a very remarkable lecturer. He speaks with ease and freedom, but not with a gossipy, unequal tone, alternately inaudible and bawling, as some very learned professors do: he delivers himself with clearness, precision and ability. Moreover he speaks his language in a manner which confirmed me in a secret suspicion I had, that a great number of Englishmen speak it very badly. Why is it that French in the mouth of Mlle. Mars, German in that of Tieck, English in that of Faraday, seems a totally different language?—because they articulate, what other people swallow or chew. It is a shame that the power and harmony of simple speech (I am not now talking of eloquence, but of vowels and consonants) that the tones and inflexions which God has given to the human voice, should be so neglected and abused."

The Wernerian Natural History Society

At a meeting of the Wernerian Natural History Society in Edinburgh held on March 26, 1836, Prof. Robert Jameson (1774–1854) exhibited a series of birds from northern India collected by Mr. Hamilton