

apparatus providing automatically a ventilating current of air past the walls of the cylinder, similar to that produced artificially in the well-known Assman psychrometer.

The first part of the paper is concerned with the rates of ascent of balloons of various sizes and also with the rates of fall of the apparatus after the balloon has reached its greatest height and has burst; in the second part an estimate is made of the probable errors in the measurement of temperature at heights greater than 13 km. due to imperfect protection against direct solar radiation, arising from the fact that the diminished density of the air at such heights reduces the ventilating effect of a given air current. In this last problem the required result has been obtained by studying statistically the differences found between the temperatures recorded when the apparatus is ascending and descending, in relation to the time of day. It appears that the error due to solar radiation in soundings made during the day is serious, and may be more than 3° C. at a height of 20 km. The need for some more effective protection than is provided by a single metal cylinder therefore appears to be established, if reliable figures are to be obtained during the daytime in regions of very low air density; it is observed that the construction of such a screen is no simple matter, which doubtless accounts for the almost universal use of the inadequate metal cylinder.

## Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—The professor of chemistry has, with the consent of the Vice-Chancellor, appointed F. S. Bridson Jones, of Clare College, to be his assistant.

EDINBURGH.—The *Senatus Academicus* has resolved to offer the degree of LL.D. to the following among others: Sir Thomas Hudson Beare, regius professor of engineering and dean of the Faculty of Science in the University; Dr. Mervyn Henry Gordon, consulting bacteriologist; Sir William McKechnie, permanent secretary, Scottish Educational Department; Prof. E. L. Thorndike, director of psychological research in Columbia University, New York.

LEEDS.—Prof. J. K. Jamieson has resigned from the chair of anatomy after serving on the Council, the Senate and the Medical School during the long period of forty-one years, in the course of which he has been dean of the medical faculty and a member of the University Council continuously for eighteen years.

The following appointments have been made: D. J. Cork, to be lecturer in dental pathology and bacteriology; D. S. Hendrie, to be district lecturer in agriculture; J. C. Gillies, to be honorary demonstrator in anatomy.

Easter Holiday courses of lectures on history and archaeology, law, astronomy and physics will be given in the University on April 15–17. Lectures on history and archaeology will be given by A. H. Dainton and Miss Mary Kitson Clark; on physics by Prof. R. Whiddington, Dr. E. C. Stoner, Dr. G. W. Brindley and J. McDougall. Two lectures on "Modern Developments of Astronomy" will be delivered by Prof. S. Brodetsky. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar.

LONDON.—Sir Denison Ross, who has reached the age of retirement, has accepted the invitation of the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies to remain as director of the School for another year. Prof. R. L. Turner, University Professor of Sanskrit, has been appointed to succeed Sir Denison as director after the end of the session 1936–37.

OXFORD.—D. A. Jackson, of Balliol College, has been granted the degree of D.Sc. for his work on the hyperfine structure of spectral lines.

MR. J. R. BLOCKEY has been appointed principal of the Leathersellers' Technical College, Tower Bridge Road, S.E.1, to succeed Mr. M. C. Lamb, who is retiring at the end of the current session. Mr. Blockey, who has been works manager of Messrs. Harold Nickols, Ltd., of Leeds, since 1930, was educated at the University of Leeds, where he obtained his B.Sc. degree with first-class honours in 1908, and was awarded the M.Sc. degree in the following year. From 1909 until 1913 he was on the staff of the Leathersellers' College as lecturer in the applied science of leather manufacture.

THE seventh World Conference of the New Education Fellowship will be held in Cheltenham during the first fortnight in August. The subject of the Conference will be "Education and a Free Society". Delegates to the Conference have been appointed by the Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department, and Government representatives have also been appointed by Northern Ireland, Denmark and France. The Conference will be open to the public. Further information can be obtained from Mr. A. B. Paterson, 29 South Street, St. Andrews, Fife.

A LIBRARY Consultant Service established four years ago in Teachers' College, Columbia University, exemplifies, in the course of its development, certain widespread movements in the United States involving a convergence of the methods of the librarian and those of the teacher, especially the university teacher. So long ago as 1928, Dean Russell of Teachers' College and Dr. Suzzallo, formerly president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, foretold the consummation of these tendencies in the merging of the best features of the library and the school in an entirely new type of educational institution consisting of three elements: "a lot of books, an earnest student and someone who knows them both and can bring them into thoughtful accord". The library consultant at Teachers' College provides advisory services of four types: first, helping students individually, at their request, to find in books and journals just the information they need; secondly, general lectures, open to the entire student body, explaining the organisation of the library and use of the card catalogues and periodical indexes; thirdly, meetings with classes for demonstrating the use of the reference and bibliographic tools appropriate for the subjects in question; and fourthly, group meetings with teachers of various subjects to present the reference and supplementary materials useful in teaching those subjects, thereby demonstrating the potential value of a good school library. It is the mission of such services to stimulate the student to seek a wider basis of knowledge than lecture notes and, to that end, to acquire such a modicum of library technique as will obviate much waste of time and energy.