burr, walnut and tiger oak. First Class lounge, selected maple burr with dado in makoré, walnut skirting and high and low level soffits in Masur birch. Aft and forward staircases, figured ash, dado in elm burr. Main staircase, figured ash. Dado in elm burr with feature panel on promenade deck of specially selected and cut peacock walnut burr, graded to outer sides with special elm burr. It is said that this log was specially cut for the *Queen Mary*. First Class ballroom, skirting and dado in specially cut logs of Makoré with small marquetry banding in the Makoré doors of maple burr; remainder of the room painted. First Class entrance foyers on main and *B* deck, dado in elm burr, with filling above in chestnut, banded. First Class, *A* and *C* decks, elm burr dado with masur birch filling banded horizontally with straight grained birch. Much of the beautiful furniture in the ship is made of Honduras and other mahogany, oak, French walnut and Austrian beech.

It is due to the modern use of veneers and plywood that the decoration of this vast ship in so artistic a manner has become possible. A study of the *Queen Mary* will be a revelation to many of the great progress which has been achieved in this direction.

Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—M. T. Greig has been appointed University demonstrator in anatomy.

The Gordon Wigan Prize in chemistry has been awarded to W. C. G. Baldwin, of Christ's College, for a dissertation entitled "Phenomena associated with Optically Active Absorption Bands".

The Managers of the Balfour Fund propose to consider the appointment of a student as from October 1, 1936. The studentship is of the annual value of £300 and the appointment is for three years. Applicants need not be members of the University of Cambridge. Further information can be obtained from Prof. J. S. Gardiner, Zoological Laboratory, Cambridge, before May 31.

At Clare College, Dr. H. M. T. Taylor, University lecturer in the Faculty of Mathematics, has been elected into an official fellowship.

OXFORD.—During the visit of the British Medical Association in July, honorary degrees of D.Sc. will be conferred on Sir George Newman, Sir Cuthbert Wallace, Sir Henry Dale, Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, Dr. Robert Hutchison and Prof. Charles Singer.

H. O. Newboult and R. Opie, fellows of Magdalen College, have been appointed University lecturers in mathematics and economic science respectively. Dr. B. D. Pullinger has been appointed University lecturer and demonstrator in pathology from October 1, and Dr. S. Zuckerman University lecturer and demonstrator in human anatomy from April 1, 1937.

Balliol College proposes to elect a Skynner senior student in astronomy this term. The studentship is of the value of £200 a year and may be held for two years.

Christ Church proposes to elect this term at least one 'lecturer' and one senior scholar to carry out research in science or literature. The lectureship is worth £300 a year for five years and the scholarship £200 a year for two or four years.

The subject of the course of eight lectures given this term by the Wilde lecturer in natural and comparative religion, Dr. F. L. Cross, is "Religion and Scientific Thought from the Renaissance to Leibniz".

THE mechanisation of university studies is attacked by Dr. W. S. Learned, of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in a recently published report on the progress of the Foundation's elaborate inquiry, begun eight years ago, into the relation of secondary and higher education in Pennsylvania. The chief instrument employed in this inquiry has been an extensive series of tests covering the main aspects of general education and designed to measure the sum total of the student's acquired skills and store of serviceable knowledge—the intellectual fixed capital available for future use. The tests are said to "constitute a searching and comprehensive probe such as has never been available hitherto", and made possible comparisons of ratings of students of different academic grades and of the same student at different stages. The results expose the weaknesses of a system of grouping students according to the extent of the formal academic 'courses' they have completed. Thus: in an examination of eleven thousand students belonging to three academic groups, (*a*) high school final year, (*b*) college second year, and (*c*) college fourth year, 22 per cent of (*a*) were ranked higher and 29 per cent of (*c*) lower than the average of (*b*), while 10 per cent of (*a*) did better than the average of (*c*), and vice versa. Again, in a typical college, 34 undergraduates at the end of their first year scored higher than 72 per cent of seniors on the eve of graduation. Two years later, when the entire college was re-examined with the same test, two-thirds of these brilliant freshmen had actually lost ground. "Although as freshmen they were already beyond that intellectual level at which the college could serve them effectively, they were obliged to mark time for three more years until the calendar should release them".

Science News a Century Ago

The Dudley and Wolverhampton Coalfield

AT a meeting of the Geological Society held on May 11, 1836, Lyell being in the chair, Murchison read a paper "On the Dudley and Wolverhampton Coalfield, and on the Formations connected with it, followed by a Description of the Lickey Quartz Rock". This was one of a series of papers in which Murchison described the structure of the border counties of England and Wales and the southern part of the Principality. The great coalfield of Dudley and Wolverhampton, the most productive in the central part of England, he said, is geologically distinguished by the total absence of the mountain limestone and the old red sandstone, which form the fundamental rocks of so many of the coal tracks of Great Britain. The formations which constitute the sub-strata of the district are known only by their irregular protrusion through the coal measures near Sedgeley and Dudley, and through the new red sandstone at Walsall, or by having been reached in some of the deepest pits. These

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