

## Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—The following grants have been authorised from the Anthony Wilkin Studentship Fund: £40 to J. R. B. Stewart, of Trinity Hall, to enable him to continue the excavations he is doing near Balikiser in Asia Minor; £40 to G. E. Daniel, of St. John's College, for the investigation of a megalith in South Wales.

In the report of the Buildings Syndicate on the completion of various building schemes undertaken in connexion with the Rockefeller benefaction for the physical and biological sciences, it is stated that the total cost amounted to £196,858.

At St. John's College the following have been elected into fellowships: E. H. F. Baldwin, H. Carmichael and J. S. Mitchell.

EDINBURGH.—Dr. A. L. Craig-Bennett, of the Department of Zoology, has been appointed by the Colonial Office to be chief fisheries officer in Palestine.

SHEFFIELD.—The following appointments have recently been made: Mr. Glyn Davies, to be lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology; Mr. J. C. Paisley, to be junior assistant bacteriologist; Mr. A. J. Holland and Mr. N. A. Nichols, to be research assistants in the Department of Glass Technology.

It is announced by the Lisbon correspondent of *The Times* that the honorary doctorate of the Technical University of Lisbon has been conferred on Sir Josiah Stamp, president of the British Association. Sir Josiah has presented to the University Library the original letter from a Lisbon merchant to his principal in England describing the effects on his business of the great earthquake of 1755; also a book containing some English publications of the period describing the earthquake. In return Sir Josiah was presented with a copy of the *Lusiads* by Camoens in a silver casket. It is stated that this is the first honorary doctorate to be conferred on an Englishman.

Two fellowships (700 dollars), eleven studentships (600 dollars) and seventeen bursaries (500 dollars) have been awarded for the year 1936-37 by the National Research Council, Ottawa, to candidates selected from Canadian universities. The policy of assisting exceptional students to pursue post-graduate work in Canadian universities has been followed since the inception of the Council, the object being to build up in Canada a supply of well-trained men of science capable of undertaking and carrying through research investigations involving a more profitable utilisation of Canadian raw materials and the expansion of markets for Canadian products.

THE education of girls in India has in recent years passed through a phase of tumultuous changes. Its backward state made such an impression on the Indian Statutory Commission that it was declared in an Interim Report (generally referred to as the Hartog Report) "priority should now be given to the claims of girls' education in every scheme of expansion". In a paper to the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts (*J. Roy. Soc. Arts*, March 20), Lady Hartog estimated the extent and character of the developments that have followed the publication of that Report. Whereas the Committee found that the disparity in numbers as between boys and girls at

school, about 5 to 1, was increasing by more than 350,000 a year, the next few years were marked by such a rush of girl pupils alike to primary school, secondary school and college, that by 1932-33 their annual increment was exceeding that of boy pupils by more than 100,000. The gratification with which this advance has been received should not, Lady Hartog pointed out, obscure the fact that it has been accompanied by serious abuses. In the primary schools almost 40 per cent of the girl pupils are, for lack of girls' schools, accommodated in boys' schools, where they have no real place in the school life. There are, as a rule, no women teachers and no provision for teaching the girls anything outside the boys' curriculum. Of all the primary schools for girls in India, Bengal possesses nearly half, and in this province so inefficient is their instruction that the whole system of girls' primary schools is condemned as, with a few exceptions, practically useless. In the secondary schools the position is not so bad. Though overcrowded, the buildings are on the whole good, and it is beginning to be recognised that the curriculum, instead of being a replica of that of the boys, should have some relation to the home life which will be the lot of the vast majority of the girls. In the universities, the influx of girls has been justifying itself by results, especially in the medical schools; but there is said to be a crying need for more women's colleges and hostels.

## Science News a Century Ago

### Registration of Statistics

ON May 16, 1836, at a meeting of the Statistical Society, the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie read a paper entitled "Observations on the means of collecting information on various points of Statistics, explanatory of a proposition for the appointment of a Committee to consider the expediency of opening books for the contemporary record of various statistical facts, and to prepare the forms in which such books shall be kept". Mr. Mackenzie said, that everyone who had attempted to prosecute statistical inquiries relating to past ages, must have been struck with the difficulty of getting fully and accurately, for any considerable series of years, information relating to things, which, at the time of their occurrence, were known to all the world, and he suggested that the Society should do for posterity what we wish our ancestors had done for us, or in other words, realise the probable wishes of the men of the year 2000. In accordance with his scheme, he therefore suggested that a set of registers should be opened to contain statistics relating to prices, wages, earnings, salaries, fees, weights and measures, coinage, interest, dividends, exchanges, insurance and income and expenditure of different classes of society, etc.

### Observations of the Solar Eclipse

AMONG those who observed the annular solar eclipse of May 15, 1836, was J. D. Forbes, who on May 17 wrote from Edinburgh to Quetelet at Brussels: "On the 15th the solar eclipse was most admirably seen here. . . . I observed with a 7-foot reflector the immersion and emersion of the spots, of which there were several, but I could not observe the slightest distortion produced by refraction upon those delicate objects. My attention was chiefly directed to this