

it shall have been represented to the Government that the plan of observation advocated by the Baron de Humboldt is eminently calculated to advance our knowledge of the laws which govern some of the most interesting phenomena in physical science . . . that the patronage to the undertaking which is so essential to its prosecution will be most readily accorded. . . ."

Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—M. Krook, research student of Gonville and Caius College, has been elected to an Isaac Newton studentship, and E. N. Rowland, of Gonville and Caius College, to an additional Isaac Newton studentship.

Prof. W. V. D. Hodge, Lowndean professor of astronomy and geometry, has been elected into a non-stipendiary fellowship at Pembroke College.

GLASGOW.—Dr. William Marshall Smart, chief assistant in the Observatory and lecturer in mathematics in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed regius professor of astronomy, in succession to Prof. Ludwig Becker, who has resigned.

Mr. Oliver Shewell Franks, fellow and prælector in philosophy of Queen's College, Oxford, has been elected to the chair of moral philosophy rendered vacant by the death of Prof. A. A. Bowman.

Dr. John Dougall has been appointed Gibson lecturer in the history of mathematics.

Sir Frederick Crombie Gardiner has given £10,000, and the trustees of his brother, the late Mr. William G. Gardiner, of Moraig, Stirling, have also allocated £10,000 to the University, towards the provision of a new Medical Institute to be erected in connexion with the Western Infirmary. This is to be known as the "Gardiner Medical Institute" and will be at the disposal of the regius professor of medicine for the purpose of teaching and research.

In a recent address to the General Council of the University, the new Principal, Sir Hector Hetherington, mentioned that during the last six years, whereas £130,000 has been received for scholarships, only £47,000 has been received for general expenditure on lands, buildings, equipment, etc. He pointed out that, at present, aid to the University is more important and beneficial than the provision of additional scholarships.

LONDON.—The following degrees have been conferred: D.Sc. in chemistry on E. E. Jelley, for published works on chemical microscopy and photographic chemistry; D.Sc. (engineering) on R. W. Bailey, for published works on creep and stress in metals, etc.

OXFORD.—Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been appointed George Eastman visiting professor for the academic year 1937-38.

Prof. R. V. Southwell has been elected a member of Hebdomadal Council.

Lord Nuffield has been elected an honorary fellow of Pembroke College.

Dr. F. Simon, of Balliol College, has been appointed University reader in thermodynamics for five years from October 1.

It is proposed to confer the honorary degree of D.Sc. early next year on Dr. J. D. Pollock, chairman of the Metal Industries Company and of the British Oxygen Company, and a Carnegie Trustee.

SHEFFIELD.—Prof. F. C. Lea, formerly professor of mechanical engineering, and Prof. J. Husband, formerly professor of civil engineering, have been given the title of emeritus professor.

The following appointments have recently been made: Dr. K. Mellanby, Sorby fellow, as honorary lecturer in zoology; Mrs. H. Mellanby, as honorary research assistant in the Department of Zoology; Mr. J. E. Stanworth and Mr. F. R. Harris, as research fellows in the Department of Glass Technology.

Dr. J. C. Paisley has resigned his post of junior assistant bacteriologist.

A NUMBER of Commonwealth Research Fellowships, tenable by British subjects at certain American universities, are offered for award in 1937 by the Commonwealth Fund of New York. Twenty-four Ordinary Fellowships are offered to candidates living in Great Britain or Northern Ireland who are graduates of a university therein. Two Dominion Fellowships are available to British candidates living in a British Dominion or Colony who are graduates of a Colonial university. There are also five Service Fellowships tenable by British candidates holding appointments overseas under the British Government or a British Colonial Government, and three Home Civil Service Fellowships tenable by candidates holding appointments in the Home Civil Service. The Fellowships are tenable for two years, and are not open to women. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Commonwealth Fund Fellowships, 35 Portman Square, London, W.1.

"AN Educational Platform for 1936", formulated at Stanford University, California, last July by the Dean of the School of Education as a result of a conference held there on "Curriculum and Guidance", has been published in *School and Society* (Sept. 5). It is a fairly comprehensive reasoned statement of principles, aims and aspirations, and is valuable as an indication of some trends of thought in academic circles in the western States of America. The impact of the recent rapid advances in technological science on a society unprepared to readjust its institutions, which are consequently "jarred to their very foundations", calls for a concentration of effort on the part of educators to fit the younger generation and, so far as possible, the community at large, to take part in the social advances indispensable for the preservation of a democratic State. Hence the educational programme must stress the study of present conditions and the potentialities of the future, the study of the past being ancillary thereto, and the teacher's position shifting from that of merely transmitting information about things which have been done to one of dynamic influence in social evolution. Associated with this is the development of what is referred to as "the guidance service" to aid the student in defining his goals — vocational, social-civic, recreational and health. But guidance should imply more than mere counsel. The 'platform' envisages school education as an *apprenticeship* for worthy adult life, including the actual doing under supervision of things which constitute desirable living. This implies provision for participation in many varied activities outside courses of formal study. The last item in the proposals calls for a thorough-going broadening and raising of the standards of teacher-training institutions.