

University Events

BIRMINGHAM.—At the recent annual meeting of the Court of Governors, the pro-chancellor, Mr. Walter Barrow, announced a bequest of £5,000 by the late Lady Scott-Moncrieff, who was one of the original students of Mason College. The late Prof. R. F. C. Leith, emeritus professor of pathology, bequeathed a sum of £15,000 to the Department of Pathology and £15,000 to be used for scholarships to promote the study of pathology and bacteriology. The late emeritus Prof. Lewis and Sir John Robertson also bequeathed their libraries to the new Medical School. An anonymous donor has given £2,000 to enable an investigation to be carried out under the personal direction of Prof. W. N. Haworth with the view of producing an improved form of insulin for use in the treatment of diabetes, and two research fellows are already at work on the subject.

Part of the new Hills Chemistry Block is already in occupation, and it is expected that the whole will be ready for use in the summer term. A further sum of £6,050 has been received in donations towards the equipment of the building.

The fund for the Medical School, which received £50,000 as its share of the proceeds of the Hospitals Centre general appeal, has received further donations to the amount of £12,000, including £10,000 from Sir Charles Hyde for a Chamberlain Memorial Museum, £500 from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Dr. Stanley Barnes) and £101 from the Guild of Graduates. It is hoped that the school will be ready for occupation in 1938, but a considerable increase in available funds is required.

The Department of Industrial Hygiene and Medicine has received donations to the amount of nearly £1,670 from various industrial firms and has been actively engaged, evidently meeting a widely felt want. Arrangements have been completed for the establishment, under the joint auspices of the Birmingham United Hospital and the University, of consultation centres in industrial hygiene and medicine at the Queen's and General Hospitals.

As a consequence of the death of Prof. J. S. Haldane, the Mining Research Laboratory is being transferred to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on April 1.

CAMBRIDGE.—R. G. Hawtrey, formerly of Trinity College, has been appointed to the Alfred Marshall lectureship for the year 1937–38.

The following grants from the Worts Fund have been made: £25 to J. K. S. St. Joseph, towards the expenses of a visit to certain Continental museums for the purpose of studying the palaeontological collections there; £40 to W. V. Lewis, towards the expenses of an expedition to East Iceland to study the geography and natural history of this region; £50 to J. W. Wright, towards the expenses of an expedition to Ellesmere Land to study the geology and the birds of that country; £10 to Miss W. Lamb, towards the expenses of a visit to Turkey for archaeological purposes; £40 to J. R. B. Stewart, towards the expenses of a visit to Cyprus for archaeological purposes; £40 to Miss M. Fearnside, towards the expenses of a journey across Scandinavia for the purpose of studying the ecology of certain areas; £40 to H. E. Hinton, towards the expenses of a journey to Lake Titicaca, Peru, to study the aquatic insects there; £12 to Miss E. M. McIndoe, towards the expenses of a visit to the Stazione Zoologica at

Naples for the purpose of studying the acclimatization of animals to temperature; £40 to J. L. Mason, towards the expenses of a visit to Algeria to study the fauna of the hot springs there.

The General Board recommends that the following additional teaching offices be established on October 1: a university demonstratorship in the Department of Geology; a part-time University lectureship in the faculty of Mathematics; two University lectureships in the Department of Chemistry (temporarily replacing two demonstratorships); a university lectureship in the Department of Physics, replacing an assistant directorship of research; two University demonstratorships in the Department of Botany (replacing a University lectureship); a university lectureship in the Department of Parasitology. The General Board recommends that a readership in plant morphology be established for one tenure only, and that it be authorized to appoint Dr. H. H. Thomas to this post from October 1.

OXFORD.—H. M. Sinclair, University College, has been elected to the Radcliffe travelling fellowship in medicine for 1937.

H. S. Brodribb, University College, and Miss J. Wright, Somerville College, have been granted the degree of M.D.

SHEFFIELD.—J. A. Wragg has been appointed assistant to Dr. W. A. Timperley, research fellow in the Department of Physiology.

R. Ibbotson has resigned his post of demonstrator in non-ferrous metallurgy.

Science News a Century Ago

Karl Himly (1772–1837)

MARCH 22 marks the centenary of the death of the eminent German eye specialist Karl Gustav Himly, to whom scientific nomenclature is indebted for the words 'ophthalmology' and 'mydriatics'. He was born on April 30, 1772, at Brunswick, where he attended the medico-chirurgical college from 1790 until 1792, and then continued his medical education at Göttingen under Richter. In 1795 he was appointed professor at the College at Brunswick, where he remained until 1801, when he was elected to the chair of medicine at Jena. Two years later he was made director of the Academy Hospital at Göttingen, where he inaugurated a course of theoretical and practical instruction in ophthalmology and gained a well-merited reputation both as lecturer and as operator, so that in 1816 he was made an honorary professor of the University of Pisa.

Himly's importance in the history of ophthalmology lies not only in his systematic use of mydriatics, but also in his having founded the first journal devoted to his speciality. In conjunction with Johann A. Schmidt, between 1802 and 1806, he brought out three volumes of a journal entitled *Ophthalmologische Bibliothek*, which was continued by himself alone under the name of *Bibliothek für Ophthalmologie* in the period 1816–19 during which two volumes appeared. He was also the author of a text-book on practical therapeutics (1807), and from 1809 until 1814 was co-editor with Hufeland of the *Journal für praktische Heilkunde*. His posthumous work on diseases and malformations of the human eye and their treatment, with additions by his son, E. A. W. Himly, appeared in 1843.

The Surface of the North American Continent

ON March 22, 1837, the Geological Society listened to a paper by Mr. Roy entitled "On the supposed ancient state of the North American continent, especially on the extent of an inland sea, by which a great portion of its surface is conjectured to have been covered". The author, who had been employed on extensive surveys in the Lake District of North America, found on drawing sections for professional purposes that the country everywhere exhibited successive ridges which encircled the lakes; and upon comparing sections to the north of Lake Ontario with others to the south, that the ridges exactly corresponded in elevation. The highest of these ridges is 996 ft. above sea-level or 762 ft. above that of Lake Ontario. Connecting this elevation with the physical features of the valleys of the Mississippi and Missouri, Mr. Roy supposed that the whole area from the Rocky Mountains to just below Quebec down to the Gulf of Mexico formed one vast inland sea 960,000 square miles in area.

British Railways

In a notice in the *Athenæum* of March 25, 1837, of F. Wishaw's "Analysis of Railways", the following quotation from the book was given: "The number of proposed Railways, including Diversions, Extensions and Branches in England and Wales, for which plans have been lodged in the Private Bill Office in the present Session, is seventy-five, of which only forty-eight are under the consideration of Parliament; these amount in length to 1233 miles, and are estimated at the sum of £19,352,726 or £15,625 per mile. The whole length of tunnelling is twenty-five miles and the number of bridges, exclusive of viaducts and culverts, 2,825 or nearly two and a third per mile. The weight of iron required for the rails is 193,500 tons, and of stone for the blocks 2,670,000 tons. The area of the land is upwards of 1,500 acres; and of felt for the chairs 130 acres. These Railways, if carried into execution, would employ at least 5,000 men and 1,500 horses for three years for the earth-works alone."

Dumont D'Urville's Voyage in the *Astrolabe*

In the *Nautical Magazine* of 1837, it is stated: "The king of the French has by a decision of the 26th March approved of a proposal for a new voyage round the world, the conducting of which is to be confided to M. Dumont D'Urville. Two vessels will be employed in this expedition; the *Astrolabe*, commanded by Captain D'Urville and the *Zeelee* by Captain Jacquinot. Leaving Toulon about the middle of September, they will proceed due south to the polar sea to pursue Weddel's track, who it will be remembered reached the latitude of 74° 15'. The vessels will penetrate as far south as possible and return to the Magellan Straits. In the spring of 1838 they will leave Valpairaso for the Polynesian Archipelago, and in June will be at Vavoo, where M. D'Urville will finish the work left undone by the *Astrolabe* in 1827. They would then visit in turn Banks Island, the Solomon Islands, the Dutch Settlements in Aroo and Key Islands, Amboina, New Holland, Tasmania, New Zealand, Borneo, Sumatra and return home by the Cape. Commenting on the announcement the *Nautical Magazine* said: "We look on this as a most interesting expedition and one that will yield important results. We cannot, however, but regret to see so extensive and important

an island as New Guinea, left year after year, in its original neglected condition and with but little addition to its coasts since the time of Dampier."

Jean Sebastian Cesar Dumont D'Urville, who was born on May 23, 1790, had circumnavigated the globe under Captain Duperrey (1756-1865) in the *Coquille* in 1822-25. Promoted to captain, in this ship, renamed the *Astrolabe*, he left Toulon in April 1826 and proceeded to the Pacific, returning in March 1829. His third voyage began on September 7, 1837. After his return home he began the publication of the results of his voyage and had completed the second volume, when on May 8, 1842, with his wife and son, he was killed in a railway accident on the line from Paris to Versailles.

Societies and Academies

Dublin

Royal Dublin Society, February 23

J. BREEN, G. M. KENNEDY, J. KEANE and T. J. NOLAN: Chemical constituents of lichens found in Ireland—*Lecanora sordida*. *Lecanora sordida* was found to contain atranorin, chloratanorin, roccellic acid, and, in minor amount, a product similar to thiophanic acid and containing fourteen per cent chlorine. Roccellic acid, $C_{17}H_{32}O_4$, was established by synthesis as α methyl α' dodecyl succinic acid.

J. W. PARKES, W. S. HAMILTON, E. J. SHEEHY, P. A. MURPHY, G. SHERRARD, M. J. GORMAN, D. MELLON and T. O'CONNELL: A symposium on fertilizers.

Paris

Academy of Sciences, February 15 (*C.R.*, 204, 457-532).

JACQUES HADAMARD: Observations on notes by Destouches and by Appert. These authors have arrived independently at the same results. The present note raises a question of nomenclature.

ARMAND DE GRAMONT and DANIEL BERETZKI: The determination of the surface of a piezo-electric plate as a function of its frequency.

MARCEL LINSMAN: Real left arcs and curves of the fourth order.

L. KANTOROVITCH and E. LIVENSON: Some theorems concerning the theory of projective ensembles.

JEAN DELSARTE: A generalization of Taylor's formula.

LAURENCE C. YOUNG: A generalization of the idea of variation of the p th power in the sense of Wiener, and on the convergence of Fourier's series.

JOSEPH BARTA: The fundamental vibration of a membrane.

F. GRUSON: The representation of the ground in aerodynamic trials of vehicles.

SVETOPOLK PIVKO: A rational definition of the quality of supporting helices.

LÉOPOLD ESCANDE and GEORGES SABATHE: Remarks on the calibration of hydrometric velocity meters by displacement in a confined medium. Study of the effects of the transversal dimensions of the channel in which the instrument is moved.

DIMITRY PANOFF and PAUL RIZ: An apparatus for recording the deformations and vibrations of an aerial screw during flight.

MLLE. PAULETTE FÉVRIER: The uncertainty relations of Heisenberg and logic.