

Retirement of Olinthus Gregory

IN its issue of June 23, 1838, the *Mechanics' Magazine* said : "We understand that Dr. Olinthus Gregory, who has for the long period of thirty-five years presided over the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, with so much credit to himself and advantage to the public service, and whose numerous scientific works have contributed so much to the promotion of practical science, has been permitted to retire from the Professorship of Mathematics at Woolwich. He is succeeded in the professorship by Mr. S. H. Christie, Secretary to the Royal Society who took a high degree at Cambridge many years ago, and who has been connected with the Royal Military Academy, we believe, about 32 years."

Olinthus Gilbert Gregory (1774-1841), who was born in Huntingdonshire of humble parentage, owed his early training in mathematics to the Leicestershire botanist, Richard Weston (1733-1806). He was in turn sub-editor of a newspaper, a bookseller and a private teacher. Becoming known to Charles Hutton, the professor of mathematics at Woolwich, and the editor of the *Ladies' Diary*, in 1802 he was made a master in the Royal Military Academy and in 1807 succeeded to Hutton's chair. Among his contributions to science were his experiments on the velocity of sound. He was one of the projectors of University College, London, and his name was inscribed on the stone laid in Gower Street on April 30, 1827.

University Events

BIRMINGHAM.—The new Hospital Centre and Medical School are to be opened by the King and Queen on July 14, and to mark the occasion, at the degree congregation on July 2, the honorary degree of LL.D. is to be conferred on the following : Viscount Nuffield, who has contributed nearly £200,000 to the Hospital Centre ; Mr. Harry Vincent, who besides being a generous supporter has given much time and energy to the working out of the scheme ; Colonel Sir Bertram Ford, chairman of the Board of Management of the Birmingham Hospitals Contributory Association ; Dr. Robert Hutchison, president of the Royal College of Physicians ; Sir Cuthbert Wallace, president of the Royal College of Surgeons ; and Sir Edward Mellanby, secretary to the Medical Research Council.

CAMBRIDGE.—Prof. Eileen Power, professor of economic history in the University of London, has been elected to an honorary fellowship at Girton College.

OXFORD.—In Convocation on June 14, it was agreed to confer the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Prof. C. G. Jung, professor of psychology at the Federal Technical University, Zurich, on July 30.

C. G. T. Morison, Christ Church, has been elected a member of the Hebdomadal Council.

H. B. Butler, All Souls College, has been appointed the first warden of Nuffield College.

SHEFFIELD.—Prof. Irvine Masson, professor of chemistry and head of the Department of Pure Science in the University of Durham, has been appointed vice-chancellor in succession to Dr. A. W. Pickard-Cambridge, who is retiring.

Dr. E. Leighton Yates has been appointed assistant lecturer in physics.

Societies and Academies

Dublin

Royal Irish Academy, May 23.

J. K. CHARLESWORTH : Some observations on the glacial geology of north-east Ireland. The chief theses of this paper are (1) the drumlins of north-east Ireland were fashioned by ice of the last main glaciation ; (2) a Carlingford re-advance against the Mourne and Carlingford Mountains and along Carlingford Lough ; (3) the southward retreat of the ice along the Main and Lower Bann and its stagnation along its front and in the Lough Neagh area ; (4) an Antrim coastal re-advance that blocked the Bann and Lagan and ponded the drainage of the glens of Antrim in a suite of glacier-lakes.

H. S. W. MASSEY and R. A. BUCKINGHAM : Long-range forces between hydrogen molecules. The van der Waals' force between two hydrogen molecules in any fixed orientation is calculated.

Paris

Academy of Sciences, April 20 (C.R., 206, 1209-1228).

LUCIEN DANIEL : Sudden or retarded ripening in the bean.

ANDRÉ HAARBLEICHER : The triangles of Poncelet.

MME. MARGUERITE QUINTIN : The hydrolysis of solutions of cadmium benzenesulphonate.

ANDRÉ MERCIER and TORSTEN GUSTAFSON : The true energy of the electron.

SERGE NIKITINE : Contribution to the theory of photodichroism.

HÉLIOS SCAETTA : The notion of a cycle in the evolution of tropical soil based on researches in central and in western Africa.

MME. RITA DUBERTRET, LOUIS DONCIEUX and LOUIS DUBERTRET : The Nummulitic of Koseir, to the south of Antioch (Syria).

VLADIMIR FROLOW : The annual component of the rains in Morocco.

April 25 (C.R., 206, 1229-1272).

LUCIEN CAYEUX : The migration of phosphoric acid, following on the decalcification of the phosphatic chalks with *Belemnites quadrata* in the north of France. The genesis of the phosphatic chalks and of the sands arising from their decalcification results from two totally different phenomena, an incomplete calcification causing an enrichment of the product and an addition of phosphate to the limestone which escaped solution.

ANDRÉ BLONDEL : An apparatus for comparing the luminous flux of sources of light.

GEORGES GIRAUD : Problems of the Dirichlet type.

JULES HAAG : Asymptotic formulae concerning the oscillations of relaxation.

HENRI LAGATU and LOUIS MAUME : Measurements of agricultural biochemistry on the branches of the vine.

PAUL LÉVY : The definition of the laws of probability by their projections.

CHRISTIAN PAUC : Unification of the generator processes of various contingents and paratingents.

AYZYK GORNY : The maxima of the moduli of a function and of its derivatives.

JEAN MARIANI : A possible interpretation of the solar and terrestrial magnetic fields.