

Science News a Century Ago

Jenner and John Hunter

IN 1838, Dr. John Baron (1786-1851), the founder of the Medical Benevolent Society, published his book "The Life of Edward Jenner, M.D., etc." Jenner, who was born in 1749 and died in 1823, was a pupil of John Hunter, and in the course of a review of Baron's biography of him contained in the *Athenæum* of July 28, 1838, the reviewer said: "Between Hunter and his favourite pupil, there was much in common. Jenner was a full participator in his master's views, and Hunter acknowledged in him a kindred genius. Their correspondence in after-life was active; and Jenner continued his assistance in the labours of the school by observations, experiments and original speculations, directed to the development of its favourite objects. Trained under such a chief, and possessing an equally ardent love of nature, it is not to be doubted, that in whatever circumstances of professional life Jenner had been thrown, he would have made for himself a great name in science; and had he accepted a proposal which was made to him, to join Hunter in the business of lecturing, he could not but have become more favourably known to the medical world than he was as the provincial practitioner and discoverer of vaccination".

Differences between Pears and Apples

"A LONG and interesting memoir has been presented by M. Turpin to the French Academy of Sciences", said the *Athenæum* of July 28, 1838, "on the difference which exists between the cellular tissues of the apple and pear, which observations are expected to extend to knots of wood, to ligneous kernels, to the calcareous concretions found in the mantle of the Arions, and to the ossification of animals in general. Those authors most tenacious concerning the establishment of these two vegetables as different genera, have drawn their characters from the adherence of the lower part of the fine styles, to their villosity, to the spheroid form of the fruit, and to the stalk being set in a cavity; characters which are frequently effaced. M. Turpin founds his on the absence or presence of those stony concretions which are met with in the cellular tissue of the pear".

Medicine in Holland

THE issue of the *British and Foreign Medical Review* of July 1838, No. 3, contains the following information: "Holland contains three universities: those of Leyden, Utrecht and Groningen. Harderwyke and Franeker were formerly the seats of universities, but owing to the small number of students at each were disfranchised early in the present century. Linnaeus for some time studied, and ultimately graduated at Harderwyke; and here were published his *Amoenitates Anatomicae*. There are also three subsidised colleges or Athenæums, one at Amsterdam, another at Franeken, and the third at Deventer. Each of these has five faculties; and the medical faculties are subject to arrangements in accordance with the general system of instruction established in Holland. . . . Owing to its contracted territory and its intimate connexion with other centres, of which the languages are more generally studied and more extensively known, and from which, particularly Germany and France, books are continually imported, the medical literature of Holland is at present rather circumscribed".

University Events

BIRMINGHAM.—The following candidates have been awarded the degree of D.Sc.: F. W. Norris, for contributions to the *Biochemical Journal* on "The Pectic Substances of Plants", "Studies on Hemicelluloses", "Analysis of Carbohydrates of the Cell Wall of Plants", and other papers; L. F. C. Northcott, for various papers on the structure of metals and alloys in the *Journal of the Institute of Metals*, *Journal of the Iron and Steel Institute*, publications of the British Cast Iron Research Association, and elsewhere; E. Preston, for papers on "Viscosity of the Soda Silicate Glasses at High Temperatures and its Bearing on their Constitution" in the *Journal of Glass Technology*, "Evaporation and Diffusion of Volatile Material into an Inert Gas Stream" in the *Transactions of the Faraday Society*, and other papers on the technology of glass.

EDINBURGH.—Sir Arthur Olver has been appointed principal of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh (now affiliated with the University) in succession to the late Principal O. Charnock Bradley who died in November 1937. Sir Arthur graduated at the London Veterinary College in 1897 and obtained his fellowship in 1909. He served in the South African War, in Egypt and in the Sudan, in 1907. In 1908, he was appointed assistant director-general, Army Veterinary Services, and served throughout the Great War. In 1928-30 he was deputy director of veterinary services for India and in 1930 was appointed to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research of India, from which post he has but recently retired. In his last positions he was largely responsible for the reorganization of the veterinary colleges and of veterinary research in India.

LONDON.—University postgraduate travelling studentships of the value of £275 for one year have been awarded to Margaret Elizabeth Broughton (King's College), and Mr. Edward Michael Evans (Imperial College—Royal College of Science). Miss Broughton proposes to visit Nigeria and make a study of the land use and native agriculture in the Lower Niger Basin. Mr. Evans proposes to investigate, under Prof. Bonhoeffer in the University of Leipzig, the synthesis of the sugars under the action of light, and in the presence of various catalysts.

University postgraduate studentships of the value of £150 for one year have been awarded among others to R. J. Bray, botany (Imperial College); V. C. E. Burnop, chemistry (Imperial College); M. G. Church, chemistry (University College); Elizabeth H. McPherson, philosophy (University College); W. H. Ward, engineering (Imperial College—City and Guilds Engineering College).

ST. ANDREWS.—The Court has agreed to accept the legacy by the late Miss Scott Lang on the conditions attached to that legacy, and has approved a scheme for the erection at the United College of an astronomical observatory and for the appointment of a lecturer in astronomy in fulfilment of these conditions.

Dr. C. A. Coulson, fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been appointed lecturer in mathematics in University College, Dundee.