

## SCIENCE NEWS A CENTURY AGO

## Travels in Eastern Turkey

At a meeting of the Geographical Society on December 9, 1839, a communication was read from Mr. John Brant, H.M. Consul at Erzurum, describing a tour of about 900 miles in the country lying to the south of Mount Ararat and the north of the River Tigris. Brant was accompanied by Dr. E. D. Dickson and A. G. Glascott, R.N., who had mapped the route followed and had also prepared a chart of a section of the high land of Armenia, between Trebizon on the Black Sea, and Mosul on the Tigris, a direct distance of 360 miles, showing the remarkable features of the elevated plateau, which for the greater part preserves a level of 6,000 ft. above the sea. Astronomical positions were determined of the principal places visited, resulting in the correction of many errors. Among the towns visited was that of Van on the east side of the lake of that name. The town had a population of about 35,000, half of whom were Armenians. The lake covers about 900 square miles and is 5,470 ft. above the level of the sea. By a special order of the Pasha, the party were able to visit the castle and caves and they also inspected the cuneiform inscriptions near Van, the Pasha expressing great anxiety to know if the party could translate them. An expedition was also made to the top of the mountain of Supan Tagla, 4,000 ft. above the lake and 9,500 ft. above sea-level, the theodolite being placed on the summit. From this spot could be seen to the north-east the beautiful peaks of the Great and Lesser Ararat, at a distance of 80 miles, rising into the regions of eternal snow.

## Electro-deposition of Copper

"CONSIDERABLE interest has been excited in the scientific world," said the *Athenæum* of December 14, 1839, "by Mr. Spencer's new process of copying medals and other works of art, in copper, by the agency of voltaic electricity. It is with great pleasure we hear that this process is already beginning to be employed in certain of our manufactures, and that thus electricity will soon be numbered among the agents employed for practical and useful purposes. . . . In the manufacture of plated articles and ornaments it is often desirable to copy ornamental work, such as leaves, flowers and arabesque mouldings; this is both difficult and expensive, and from these causes often impossible. Mr. Spencer's invention, however, affords a cheap and easy method of performing what is required, and thus, ornaments on rich ancient plate are copied with the greatest perfection and ease, and without injury to the original. The great advantage consisting in the means of obtaining at very small expense, a facsimile in copper of the ornaments required to be copied, which may then be silvered or gilt. . . . The casts of medals, transmitted to us by Mr. Spencer, and also those made by Mr. E. Solly and Mr. J. Newman, and exhibited lately at the meeting of the Society of Arts, were very pure and compact copper, and the surface was as brilliant and perfect as could be desired. The process, indeed, is simple, and so far from its requiring, as is generally supposed, either expensive and complicated apparatus, or deep scientific knowledge, nothing can be more easy, as the observance of a few rules renders the success of the process quite certain, and, as regards the expense of the apparatus, the whole of it may be acquired for a few pence."

## UNIVERSITY EVENTS

CAMBRIDGE.—During the vacancy in the professorship of chemistry, Dr. H. McCombie will be temporary director of the laboratory of general and organic chemistry—that is to say, all those parts of the chemical laboratory not at present assigned for the use of the professors of colloid science, theoretical chemistry, metallurgy, and physical chemistry.

In accordance with its usual practice, Trinity College, Cambridge, announces the offer of a research studentship open to graduates of other universities who propose to go to Cambridge in October next as candidates for the degree of Ph.D. The value of the studentship may be as much as £300 a year if the pecuniary circumstances of the successful candidate require so large a sum. Candidates must not have reached the age of twenty-six before May 1. In certain circumstances an election may be made to an additional studentship. The same College offers, as usual, Dominion and Colonial exhibitions to students of Dominion and Colonial universities who wish to go to Cambridge next October as candidates for the degree of B.A., M.Litt., M.Sc., or Ph.D. These exhibitions are of the titular value of £40, but their actual value is fixed by the College Council in accordance with the exhibitor's financial circumstances. A candidate for a studentship or exhibition should apply through the principal authority of his university, and his application should reach the Senior Tutor of Trinity College (from whom further particulars may be obtained) by May 1, 1940.

OXFORD.—H. G. Champion, New College, has been appointed to the professorship of forestry, vacated by the death of Prof. R. S. Troup, as from Trinity Term, 1940.

Miss A. Pellow, St. Hugh's College, has been awarded the Edgell Shoppee Scholarship in engineering science.

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES as Teachers of English for Colombia—British Council, 3 Hanover Street, W.1. (December 15, quoting 'Colombia').

SENIOR EXPERIMENTAL OFFICERS (Male), EXPERIMENTAL OFFICERS (Male), and EXPERIMENTAL ASSISTANTS (Male and Female) by the Ministry of Supply—The Ministry of Supply (S.E.3), The Adelphi, W.C.2 (December 20, quoting Appts.015/S.E.3).

WOMAN PROFESSOR IN CHEMISTRY at the Huguenot University College, Wellington, Cape—The Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2 (December 31).

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

## Great Britain and Ireland

Ministry of Health. Memorandum on Influenza. Revised edition. Pp. 12. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 2d, net. [2111]

Air Ministry: Meteorological Office, London. Southport Auxiliary Observatory (the Fernley Observatory of the Corporation of Southport). Annual Report, with Results of Meteorological Observations, for the Year 1938. By George A. Lidster. Pp. 32. (Southport: Fernley Observatory.) [2111]

## Other Countries

Smithsonian Institution: Bureau of American Ethnology. Bulletin 122: An Archaeological Survey of Wheeler Basin on the Tennessee River in Northern Alabama. By William S. Webb. Pp. xv + 214 + 122 plates. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [2211]