

## SEVENTY YEARS AGO

NATURE, Vol. 2, June 16, 1870

## Scientific Education of Women

"THE feature which will probably most clearly mark the year 1869 in the view of the future historian of Education, will be the definite recognition of the rights of women to all the advantages of education accorded to men." This is the opening sentence of an article surveying the position. Reference is made to courses of lectures on physiography, physics and botany given by Huxley, Guthrie and Oliver at South Kensington, and to other courses in London, at Edinburgh, Manchester and Liverpool. The results of examinations based on these courses show that "not only can women compete with men in the qualities essential for severe and successful study, but that in many respects their average attainments are higher than among the working members of a University". The work of the Edinburgh Association, all the teachers of which are professors of the University of Edinburgh, is thought to derive much benefit from its connexion with the University.

As regards medical education, the exclusion of women is considered to be due to the fact that "the teachers and practisers of medicine and surgery form a guild, a professional trades' union, protected and licensed by the Government", who are acting in self-defence.

## Circumlocution

A PROVINCIAL druggist [in France] desirous of gathering fox-glove (*Digitalis*) in one of the State forests, applied for permission to the local authority (*garde général local*), offering at the same time to pay an annual sum of six francs for the privilege. The local magnate transmitted the request to his inspector, who forwarded it to the Conservator of the department, who dispatched it to Paris to the Director-General of Forests, who caused it to be sent to the Minister of Finance. The Minister referred to "for study" to the Director-General of Domains, who sent it to the Departmental Director of Domains to be examined by the Registrar. The latter, after examination, pronounced a favourable opinion on the request, and sent it back to the Departmental Director, who forwarded it to the General Director, who, in his turn, dispatched it to the Minister, through the agency of the General Secretary of Finance, who availed himself of the opportunity to make his comments on the matter. Then the unhappy druggist's request was returned to the Director-General of Forests, who sent it to the Conservator, he to the inspector, and the inspector to the *garde général*, who was the original recipient of the request. The authority "to cull simples", at length reached the successor of the original postulant, and at an age when he was too old to herborize.

WELL-WISHERS of the University of Oxford will rejoice to hear that the honorary degree of D.C.L. has been offered to Mr. Darwin. The state of Mr. Darwin's health unfortunately precludes him from accepting the proffered honour, but the scientific naturalists of this and other countries will not the less appreciate the compliment which has been paid to their great leader. It is all the more graceful as Mr. Darwin is not an Oxford, but a Cambridge man, a circumstance which the University of Cambridge seems to have forgotten.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

[Meeting marked with an asterisk is open to the public.]

Tuesday, June 18

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY IN GREAT BRITAIN, at 5 p.m.—Prof. Dr. F. A. Hayek: "The Austrian School of Economics".

Thursday, June 20

CHADWICK LECTURE (at the Chelsea Physic Garden, Swan Walk, S.W.3), at 4 p.m.—Prof. William Brown, F.R.S.: "Plant Disease in Relation to the Public".\*

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

GRADUATE MISTRESS TO TEACH MATHEMATICS in the English High School for Girls, Istanbul—The British Council, 3 Hanover Street, W.1 (quoting 'Istanbul') (June 17).

ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER—The Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames (June 19).

ORGANIZER OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOR THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK—The Secretary, County Education Committee, Education Office, County Hall, Ipswich (June 21).

GENERAL MANAGER OF THE RIVERS DEPARTMENT—The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Manchester 2 (June 22).

ASSISTANT TO TEACH ENGINEERING SCIENCE, ENGINEERING DRAWING, ETC.—The Registrar, Wimbledon Technical College, Gladstone Road, S.W.19 (June 24).

GRADUATE ASSISTANT MISTRESS TO TEACH MATHEMATICS AND GENERAL FORM SUBJECTS in the Hong-Kong Education Department—The Secretary (I.P.C./C.A.), Board of Education, Alexandra House, Kingsway, W.C.2 (June 24).

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE—The Registrar, The University, Liverpool (June 24).

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER—The Executive Officer, Rutland War Agricultural Executive Committee, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland (June 25).

STUDENT-DEMONSTRATOR IN BOTANY—The Principal, Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green, Surrey (June 29).

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE—The Secretary, West of Scotland Agricultural College, 6, Blythswood Square, Glasgow (June 29).

PRINCIPAL of the proposed Technical Institute at Delhi—The High Commissioner for India, General Department, India House, Aldwych, W.C.2 (quoting Appointment 1/11G) (June 29).

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY at Raffles College, Singapore—The Secretary, Universities Bureau of the British Empire, 88a Gower Street, W.C.1.

DRAUGHTSMEN GRADE I (Ref. No. A.506) and DRAUGHTSMEN GRADE II (Ref. No. A.507) at South Farnborough, and DRAUGHTSMEN GRADE II (Ref. No. A.508) at Gosport—The Chief Superintendent, Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants (quoting appropriate Ref. No.).

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

## Great Britain and Ireland

The Eggs of British Birds. By Colin Matheson. Pp. 26+2 plates. (Cardiff: National Museum of Wales.) 4d. [275]

Government of Transjordan. Report on the Water Resources of Transjordan and their Development. By M. G. Ionides. Incorporating a Report on Geology, Soils and Minerals and Hydro-Geological Correlations, by G. S. Blake. (Published on behalf of the Government of Transjordan.) Pp. xxiii+372. (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies.) 30s. [275]

Jealott's Hill Research Station. Bulletin No. 1: The Teart Pastures of Somerset; Cause of Teartness and its Prevention. By W. S. Ferguson, A. H. Lewis and S. J. Watson. Pp. 28. (Bracknell: Jealott's Hill Research Station.) [285]

Patents, Designs and Trade Marks. Fifty-seventh Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, with Appendices, for the Year 1939. Pp. 26. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 6d. net. [285]

## Other Countries

Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India. Palaeontologia Indica, New Series, Vol. 29, Memoir No. 1: Jurassic Plants from Afghanistan-Turkistan. By Rajendra Varma Sitholey. Pp. iv+25+8 plates. (Calcutta: Geological Survey of India.) 4·2 rupees; 6s. 6d. [295]

Journal of the Indian Institute of Science. Vol. 23A, Part 1: Changes in the Carotene and Ascorbic Acid Content of Mangoes during Ripening. By G. B. Ramasarma and B. N. Banerjee. Pp. 10. (Bangalore: Indian Institute of Science.) 14 annas. [295]