

accurate rule than the Gregorian ; and as by either 2000 would be a leap-year, the difference would first show itself in 2028, which, according to this arrangement, would not be a leap-year, whilst by the Gregorian scheme the next omitted leap-year would be 2100. The omission of a leap-year at the end of each period of 128 years was advocated, it may be mentioned, by Sir E. Beckett Denison (now Lord Grimthorpe) in his "Astronomy without Mathematics," and by the present writer in the "Companion to the British Almanac for 1882." Its accuracy may easily be shown. It signifies having 31 instead of 32 leap-years of 366 days in 128 years, and therefore 97 common years of 365 days. Now $365 \times 97 + 366 \times 31 = 46,751$, which, divided by 128, gives 365.2422 , the actual length of a tropical year to the fourth decimal. We cannot close without expressing a further wish that some agreement may hereafter be come to amongst Christian nations to celebrate Easter also according to an exclusively solar chronology, by observing it on the first or second Sunday in April. That, however, is independent of the plan now proposed in Bulgaria to abandon the Julian style of the calendar.

W. T. LYNN.

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITY COLLEGES.

IN accordance with an undertaking given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a deputation which waited upon him at the end of 1895, with reference to increased aid from public funds for the University colleges, three gentlemen, viz. Mr. T. H. Warren (President of Magdalen College, Oxford), Prof. D. G. Liveing, F.R.S., and Mr. Robert Chalmers, of the Treasury, were appointed in March 1896 to visit the colleges sharing in the grant made to universities and colleges in Great Britain, and to investigate the character and quality of university work done, as well as to inquire generally into the position which each college occupied both financially and in other respects. The visits were concluded by the end of last year, and the report came before the Lords of the Treasury about two months ago. The results of the inquiry showed the Chancellor of the Exchequer that a case had been made out for asking Parliament to increase the sum to the colleges sharing in the grant ; he therefore recommended that the total grant to the colleges should be increased from 15,000*l.* to 25,000*l.* as from April 1, 1897. The question of the apportionment of this total sum was thereupon referred to a special Committee, whose recommendations, as will be seen from the subjoined Treasury Minute, have been accepted :—

My Lords read the report of the 20th ult. from the Committee appointed by the Treasury Minute of April 5 last to advise this Board in the matter of the apportionment of the increased sum of 25,000*l.* which Parliament has been asked to vote in the current financial year for University colleges in Great Britain.

My Lords accept the apportionment which the Committee propose, viz. :—

The Owens College, Manchester	...	...	£3500
University College, London	...	...	3000
University College, Liverpool	...	...	3000
Mason College, Birmingham	...	...	2700
King's College, London	...	...	2200
Yorkshire College, Leeds	...	...	2200
Durham College of Science	...	...	2200
University College, Nottingham	...	...	1500
Firth College, Sheffield	...	...	1300
University College, Bristol	...	...	1200
Bedford College, London	...	...	1200
			£24,000
University College, Dundee	...	...	1000
Total	...	...	£25,000

In deference to the express recommendation of the Committee, my Lords have consented to grant to the Owens College,

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Manchester, a sum in excess of the *maximum* of 3000*l.* specified in the Board's Minute of April 5, 1897. They desire, however, to make it clear that this increase is made solely in recognition of the pre-eminence of the Owens College, and must not be construed as a precedent for increasing the grant of any other college beyond the normal *maximum*.

My Lords take note of the term of the Committee's report with regard to the Dundee College. In acceding to the Committee's recommendation that "for the present" the college should receive 1000*l.* a year, my Lords are guided, as they understand the Committee to have been guided, by the exceptional position in which the college is now placed with regard to St. Andrews University. My Lords, however, are of opinion that, when the relations between the University and the college are settled, this matter should be subject to reconsideration ; and they must not be understood to admit the claim of the college to share permanently in the grant to University colleges.

The Board accept, so far as they are concerned, the recommendation that, with the exception of Dundee College, the above allocation should be settled for a term of five years from April 1, 1897. They also agree that before the end of such term a further inspection should be made on behalf of the Treasury.

My Lords will communicate to the colleges concerned the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 6 of their report that, in certain cases, three-fourths of the additions to the several grants should be devoted to staff purposes.

The future inspection, as recommended by the Committee, should extend to the University Extension colleges at Reading and Exeter, as also to the Hartley Institute at Southampton, and to any other college which, being located in a populous district, may claim to be treated as a fully-equipped college in arts and science.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer invites the Board to consider the qualifications, other than educational, which should be required from a college seeking to share in the grant in future. The Chancellor of the Exchequer submits to the Board that public money should not be contributed to a college which is still in the experimental stage or which has not yet succeeded, though fully equipped, in attracting a considerable number of students in arts and science. He therefore recommends that the financial conditions of participation should be—(1) A total local income for arts and science of at least 4000*l.* a year ; and (2) a receipt from fees in the same subjects of at least 1500*l.* a year.

My Lords approve. It only remains for them to record their appreciation of the valuable services which the Committee has been so good as to render to this Board in considering the claims of the respective colleges.

HONOURS FOR MEN OF SCIENCE.

THE honours list issued on Tuesday in connection with the Diamond Jubilee contains the names of a number of men of science upon whom her Majesty has been pleased to confer distinctions.

Dealing first with Fellows of the Royal Society, Mr. Crookes and Dr. Gowers receive knighthoods. In the order of the Bath, Mr. Wolfe Barry, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Dr. Frankland, Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, Dr. Huggins, Mr. Norman Lockyer, Director of the Solar Physics Observatory, Dr. Thorne Thorne, Principal Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, and (naval promotion) Admiral Wharton, Hydrographer of the Admiralty, are appointed K.C.B.

Mr. Christie, Astronomer Royal, and Mr. Niven, Director of Studies at the Royal Naval College, are appointed C.B.

In the Order of the Star of India, Sir Joseph Hooker and Lieut.-General Strachey are promoted to the grade of G.C.S.I.

In addition to the foregoing, Baronetcies are conferred upon Sir Wm. MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons ; Mr. Wilks, President of the Royal College of Physicians ; and Mr. Thomas Smith, Surgeon-Extraordinary to her Majesty. Mr. Durston, Engineer-in-Chief to the Navy, is made a K.C.B., and knighthoods are conferred upon Mr. A. R. Binnie, the Engineer to the London County Council, and Dr. Felix Semon.