

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—Dr. Haldane, Fellow of New College, has been re-appointed lecturer in physiology on the nomination of the Waynflete professor. The appointment is for three years from January 1, 1906. Chemical physiology is the particular subject assigned to the lecturer.

The degree of M.A. has been conferred, by a decree of Convocation, on Dr. Schlich, secretary to the delegacy for superintending the instruction of Indian forestry students.

CAMBRIDGE.—An election to an Isaac Newton studentship will be held in the Lent term, 1906. These studentships are for the encouragement of study and research in astronomy (especially gravitational astronomy, but including other branches of astronomy and astronomical physics) and physical optics. The studentship will be tenable for the term of three years from April 15, 1906. The emolument of the student will be 200*l.* per annum. Candidates for the studentship are invited to send in their applications to the Vice-Chancellor between January 16 and 26, 1906, together with testimonials and such other evidence as to their qualifications and their proposed course of study or research as they may think fit.

An appointment to the Anthony Wilkin studentship in ethnology and archæology (*Reporter*, May 23, pp. 920-1) will be made in January, 1906. Applicants should send in their names, qualifications, and a statement of the research which they wish to undertake, to the Vice-Chancellor before January 1, 1906.

Mr. T. S. P. Strangeways, of St. John's College, has been re-appointed demonstrator of pathology for a period of five years from Michaelmas, 1905.

Prof. C. S. Sherrington, F.R.S., and Prof. R. Threlfall, F.R.S., have been elected honorary fellows at Gonville and Caius College.

The State Medicine Syndicate has nominated Mr. J. E. Purvis, Mr. G. H. F. Nuttall, Dr. J. Lane Notter, Dr. R. D. Sweeting, and Dr. A. Newsholme to be examiners in State medicine in the year 1906; and Mr. G. H. F. Nuttall, Mr. C. W. Daniels, and Prof. Ronald Ross, C.B., F.R.S., to be examiners for the diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene in the year 1906.

DR. W. A. BONE, F.R.S., has been appointed professor of applied chemistry (fuel and metallurgy) in the University of Leeds.

MR. CHARLES W. E. LEIGH, formerly of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, and late assistant secretary and librarian to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, has been appointed librarian of the University of Manchester.

THE following appointments, *Science* states, have been made in the faculties of the George Washington University:—General Henry L. Abbott, U.S.A., to be professor of hydraulic engineering; Dr. Edward B. Rosa to be professor of physics; and Brigadier-General George M. Sternberg, U.S.A., to be professor of preventive medicine.

We learn from *Science* that President Eliot, of Harvard University, has received a letter from President Pritchett, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, communicating the fact that, in view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the State in the case of John Wilson and others *v.* the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the corporation of the institute find it impossible to proceed with the plan of cooperation between the university and the institute which has been under consideration for the past six months. The committee appointed by the Harvard board at the request of the institute has consequently been discharged.

AT the annual general meeting of members of the Bedford College for Women, held on November 17, the chairman, the Right Hon. A. H. Dyke Acland, announced that the Parliamentary grant to Bedford College had for the current session been increased from 2000*l.* to 4000*l.* It was also reported that past students had already contributed 3500*l.* to the building fund. Principal T. G. Foster, of University College, and Lady Lockyer have been

elected members of the council, as representatives of the senate of the University of London. The council offers two open scholarships of the value of 20*l.* each for one year for the course of secondary training beginning in January, 1906. The scholarships will be awarded to the best candidates holding a degree or equivalent in arts or science. Applications should reach the head of the training department not later than Monday, December 18.

SIR W. H. PREECE distributed the prizes and certificates to the students of Birkbeck College on November 14, and afterwards delivered an address on the simplicity of science. Sir William Preece said he has never believed that in scientific and technical training Englishmen are far behind the rest of the world. However lacking we may have been in the upper regions of higher education, we have never failed to encourage education in other ranges, and Birkbeck College was one of the first in this country to spread the love of science and to offer educational facilities to those willing to use them in their leisure hours. What is wanted now, he continued, is that men who make fortunes in the metropolis shall become patriotic founders of endowments for enabling us to distribute the teaching advantages already existing to all classes of society. Sir W. Preece incidentally remarked on the absence of memorials to pioneers of science, mentioning especially Sir Henry Bessemer—an old student of Birkbeck College. Towards the conclusion of his address he suggested that Members of Parliament, before being permitted to legislate, should have to go through a course of instruction in scientific modes of thought.

AT a dinner given by the Society of Apothecaries on November 14, Mr. John Tweedy, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, responding to the toast "The Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons," dealt with the subject of medical education. He said that, in accordance with the promptings of the General Medical Council, the Royal College of Surgeons has raised the standard of general education of medical students, and has increased the multiplicity and severity of the examinations. But Mr. Tweedy would like to see the wheel turned back a little. He thinks that too much is being attempted in the way of examinations, and desires to see steps taken in the direction of simplification, without any sacrifice of efficiency. If some of the restrictions and regulations were relaxed, he believes a better class of practitioner than is possible under the present régime could be produced. The student is over-taught, over-examined, so that he has no time to reflect, to exercise his reason or his intellect. Mr. Tweedy believes that the medical examinations are best entrusted to professional corporations. Although he does not go so far as to advocate deprivation of the universities' power of granting qualifying degrees, he pointed out that the universities do not possess a qualifying degree in law.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.  
LONDON.

**Royal Society, July 29.**—"Studies on Enzyme Action. VII.—The Synthetic Action of Acids contrasted with that of Enzymes. Synthesis of Maltose and Isomaltose." By E. Frankland **Armstrong**. Communicated by Prof. H. E. Armstrong.

The belief has grown up of late years that the enzymes which are capable of inducing the hydrolysis of disaccharides or bioses act reversibly; as yet, however, but little has been done to define the theory of the process, and no understanding has been arrived at as to the limitations to which such changes are subject. The same is true of the action of acids, which also act reversibly under certain conditions.

The key to the interpretation of the changes which attend condensation must be looked for in the behaviour of glucose itself in solution.

The term glucose, in fact, has a double connotation, and these two substances must usually be thought of under the single name. As crystallised from alcohol, it consists almost entirely of the  $\alpha$ -form; but this changes over into the  $\beta$ -form if maintained during several days at about 105°. If either form be dissolved in water, change takes place of the one into the other: ultimately, the two forms