

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—Oxford at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, 1915, presents an unwonted appearance. The colleges are almost denuded of undergraduates; the river, playing grounds, and other usual resorts are comparatively deserted, and many of the accustomed activities are at a standstill. The city is redeemed from utter desolation by the presence of large numbers of young officers, who are sent here from their respective units to undergo a course of instruction by the staff of the Officers Training Corps, assisted by lecturers detailed from the War Office. Accommodation for this influx of the military element has been provided by several of the colleges, notably by Trinity, Wadham, Hertford, and Keble. The current number of the *University Gazette* contains a long list of members of the University who have given their lives for their King and country. Many of the scientific staff are being employed in researches and practical operations with direct reference to the war. Among these may be mentioned the names of Mr. R. B. Bourdillon, fellow of University, Mr. H. T. Tizard, fellow of Oriel, and Mr. I. O. Griffith, fellow of St. John's, who are all engaged in most important researches in the chemistry and physics of aerial warfare. Mr. Griffith has been specially re-elected to a fellowship in virtue of his research work in this department.

The new chemical laboratory, which is being erected under the supervision of Prof. Perkin, is rapidly approaching completion.

THE Swiney lectures on geology in connection with the British Museum (Natural History) will be delivered by Dr. J. D. Falconer, in the Lecture Theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, at 3 p.m., beginning Saturday, November 13. There will be twelve lectures, and their subject will be "Ice and the Ice Age." Admission to the lectures will be free.

A copy of the current calendar of University College, Dublin, a constituent college of the National University of Ireland, has been received. It contains detailed particulars of the various courses offered in preparation for the degrees conferred by the National University. Among such degrees we notice the bachelor of agricultural science, bachelor and master of engineering, bachelor and master of architecture, and bachelor and master of commerce. In addition to other scholarships and exhibitions, the governing body is prepared to award not more than five post-graduate scholarships in arts or science.

THE Departmental Committee appointed by Lord Selborne under the chairmanship of Sir Harry Verney, Bart., M.P., to consider what steps can be taken to promote the settlement or employment on the land in England and Wales of sailors and soldiers, whether disabled or otherwise, on discharge from the Navy or Army, has presented an interim report recommending that as an experiment fifty men who have been discharged from the Navy or Army owing to disablement should be given a course of training in an agricultural college, with the view of obtaining for them permanent employment on the land, and, in the case of those proving specially capable, fitting them to become occupiers of small holdings. This recommendation has been approved by Lord Selborne, and endorsed by the War Office, and the Treasury has agreed to place funds at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to defray the cost of the experiment. It is proposed that the men selected shall be sent to the Harper Adams Agricultural College,

Newport, Salop, and to the College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, where they will be provided with board and lodging and be given a course of training in agriculture and horticulture free of charge to themselves. Any men who have been discharged from the Navy or Army on account of disablement, and desire to receive this course of training, should apply at once to the Secretary, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4 Whitehall Place, S.W., for a form of application.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, October 11.—M. Ed. Perrier in the chair.—The President announced the deaths of Edouard Prillieux and Philippe Hatt, members of the academy.—L. **Lecornu**: The deformation of a cylindrical tube.—Henryk **Arctowski**: The solar faculæ. An account of a statistical study of Greenwich heliographic observations. From measurements of the areas of the spots and faculæ, the maximum for the latter is nine days behind the maximum for the spots. The author, from his researches on the Greenwich data, considers the phenomenon of the variation of the frequency of the sun-spots as being only a manifestation subordinate to the phenomenon of the variation of the faculæ.—Marcel **Brillouin**: Certain problems of mathematical physics in the case of hollow bodies.—Pierre **Lesage**: Salted plants and the transmission of acquired characters. Plants watered with salt water show differences, more or less marked, from plants of the same species watered with pure water. Starting with seeds of *Lepidium sativum* arising from plants watered with weak salt solutions in 1911, it is shown that some of the acquired characters are transmitted by the seeds, although the plants arising from the latter had been watered with soft water only.—E. **Demoussy**: The localisation of the acids and sugars in fruits. Various species of fruit, both ripe and partially ripe, were subjected to gradually increasing pressure, and the juices expressed collected in fractions and analysed separately. In some cases the amounts of acid and sugar vary considerably with the pressure. These variations are marked with apricots and grapes, small for peaches, and do not appear in strawberries and melons. The cause of this variation is discussed from the point of view of the osmotic pressures in the cells. The localisation of the dissolved matter in fruits is regarded as affording an explanation of the marked difference in the taste of certain fruits in the raw and cooked states.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Continuous and Alternating Current Machinery Problems. By Prof. W. T. Ryan. Pp. 37. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 2s. 6d. net.

Practical Shop Mechanics and Mathematics. By J. F. Johnson. Pp. ix+130. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 4s. 6d. net.

Arithmetic for Carpenters and Builders. By Prof. R. B. Dale. Pp. ix+231. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 5s. 6d. net.

The Essentials of Descriptive Geometry. By Prof. F. G. Higbee. Pp. vi+204. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 7s. 9d. net.