

of sun-spots, and also that of solar prominences, during the period in question have been decreasing. For a few stations records of longer period are dealt with, giving indications that the results obtained are due to a periodicity of upwards of fifty years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—Prof. F. Soddy, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in the University of Aberdeen, has been elected to the second chair of chemistry recently established in the University.

Dr. F. A. Lindemann has been appointed to succeed Prof. Clifton in the chair of experimental philosophy. Dr. Lindemann graduated Ph.D. in the University of Berlin in 1911 by a thesis on specific heats at very low temperatures, such as become possible by the use of liquid air, and much of his early work was connected with that subject. Afterwards in Paris he collaborated with the Duc de Broglie and other French physicists, especially on the subject of radio-activity. During the war he was attached to the scientific side of the Air Service, and was in charge of the laboratory of experimental physics at Farnborough.

The late Dr. Henry Wilde, whose death occurred recently at the age of eighty-five, was a notable benefactor of the University. He was the founder of the Wilde readership in mental philosophy, of the Wilde lectureship in natural and comparative religion, and of the John Locke scholarship in mental philosophy.

Among the lectures announced in connection with the school of geography are courses on physical geography in its relation to the life of man (Mr. Beckett), extra-tropical Africa (Miss MacMunn), geographical factors in the economic development of British North America (Mr. Cossar), and the geography and ethnology of the eastern Mediterranean (Prof. J. L. Myres).

The committee for anthropology announces courses on ethnology (Miss Czaplicka), comparative technology (Mr. H. Balfour), and informal instruction on the Bronze and Early Iron ages (Mr. Leeds), questions relating to ancient Egypt and Babylon (Mr. Griffith and Mr. Langdon), Indian archaeology (Prof. Macdonell and Mr. Vincent Smith), and primitive language in its relation to thought (Prof. J. A. Smith).

Dr. Marett will lecture on primitive law, and hold classes on primitive religion in relation to morals and on ethnological questions.

MR. W. M. JONES has been appointed lecturer in physics at the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

CAPT. W. A. ANDREWS has been appointed lecturer in wireless telegraphy at the Cardiff Marine Technical School. He has hitherto been an inspector of wireless operators in connection with the R.A.F.

THE following special lectures have been arranged for delivery in the Metallurgical Lecture Theatre of the Royal School of Mines, South Kensington, at 4 o'clock each day:—"The Smelting of Zinc Ores," J. C. Moulden (May 1); "Sulphuric Acid Manufacture," R. Curtis (May 6); "Factors in Mineral Flotation," H. L. Sulman (May 13 and 15); and "The François Cementation Process," H. F. Marriott (May 20). Admission to the lectures is free to all.

MR. LAWRENCE PHILIPPS has offered University College, Aberystwyth, the sum of 10,000*l.* to found a plant-breeding institute for Wales in connection with the agricultural department of the college. He has guaranteed a further sum of 1000*l.* per annum for ten

years towards the maintenance of the institution. The governors of the college have appointed Mr. R. G. Stapleton, who was for some years connected with the college as advisory botanist, to a chair of agricultural botany and to the directorship of the new institution.

DR. J. E. M. FINCH, who died on February 5, bequeathed 5000*l.* to "the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Leicester for the endowment of a university for Leicester in remembrance of his long services as medical superintendent of the Borough Asylum." It is understood that the bequest is for the East Midland University, with which Leicester is to be associated, and the seat of which will be University College, Nottingham, as described in an article in NATURE of February 13.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Geological Society, April 9.—Mr. G. W. Lamplugh, president, in the chair.—W. Whitaker: The section at Worms Heath (Surrey), with remarks on Tertiary pebble-beds and on clay-with-flints. (With petrological notes on the beds at Worms Heath by G. MacDonald Davies.) The chief pit now shows a fine set of more or less vertical pipes in the chalk, filled with pebbles and sand of the Blackheath beds, separated from the chalk by clay-with-flints. The pebble-beds here, like those elsewhere, consist of well-rolled black flint-pebbles, amongst which pebbles of a brownish quartzite are occasionally found. It is concluded that the water in which these flint-pebbles were formed touched no other firm rock than chalk; but, as there are no sub-angular flints, the deposition of the beds cannot have taken place close along a chalk coast. From a consideration of older Tertiary pebble-beds it seems that these are not big enough to have afforded the material for the Blackheath beds. On the other hand, the Blackheath beds may have yielded the pebbles of the Bagshot series in Essex, though not in Hampshire. As to the clay-with-flints, it is inferred that it is not a deposit of definite age, but a residual product, representing a condition of things that may have held through long geologic ages, from the start of the Blackheath beds to the present time. Mr. G. M. Davies gives a petrological description of the chalk, of the clay-with-flints (both grey and red), of the Eocene sands, sandstones, and pebble-beds.

Mathematical Society, April 24.—Mr. J. E. Campbell, president, in the chair.—K. Ananda Rau: (1) Lambert's series. (2) The relations between the convergence of a series and its summability by Cesàro means.—G. H. Hardy and J. E. Littlewood: A Tauberian theorem for Lambert's series.—Prof. W. H. Young: A formula for an area.

MANCHESTER.

Literary and Philosophical Society, April 1.—Mr. W. Thomson, president, in the chair.—S. Lees: The superposing of two cross-line screens at small angles, and the patterns obtained thereby. The author discusses in this paper the general characteristics of the patterns obtained on superposing two half-tone plates of like type at small angles θ . More particularly the cases of (i) intaglio, (ii) ordinary half-tone, (iii) "chess-board" screens are discussed. In each of these cases it is shown that the coarse square framework which arises is similar in type to that of each of the constituent screens.—Lieut. W. A. Macfadyen: Electrolytic iron deposition. The work described was undertaken with the view of obtaining data on which an industrial process could be built up for the purpose of salvaging worn steel parts by electro-plating