

Early Science at the Royal Society.

March 30, 1671. Mr. Hooke produced his glass-bell with flour in it, to shew to the eye, that according to the several strokes or pulses made upon the glass, the air thence receives as many several impressions; it being manifest by this experiment, that, as every different stroke made a different sound, so the making a different impression upon the flour gave it as many several motions. It appeared also, that the powder goes from the place, whence the pulse comes; and that in a perpendicular pulse the powder has a kind of vibration: as also, that as long as the sound of the bell lasts, the powder seems to be fluid, but as soon as that ceases, the powder also lies still. It being conceived, that this experiment might much contribute to the explication of the nature of the internal motion in bodies, Mr. Hooke was to prosecute it.

March 31, 1681. Several matters were discoursed concerning perfumes. Mr. Evelyn affirmed that the present duke of Norfolk had a very large collection of receipts. With regard to the offence, which perfumes give to some women, Mr. Henshaw was of opinion that there was something peculiar in the air of England in that respect; that ladies in Spain and Italy use the highest perfumes without the least offence; whereas the contrary is very remarkable here. And, he added, that he knew a lady, who, when she first came to England, used the highest perfumes with great delight, and wondered with some disdain at the nature of English women, who suffered much prejudice by them: But, having lived here some time she began to hate them as much as she had valued them before, as well for the smell itself as for the effects.

1686. It was ordered that a pole for erecting a telescope in Gresham college be set up, and that the treasurer pay thirty shillings for the charges of it.

April 1, 1680. Mr. Hunt produced the brass and iron nails, which were covered with tin, that had lain all the preceding week in brine, and seemed to be little altered thereby.

April 2, 1668. Mr. Hooke produced a glass receiver for the improvement of hearing. Being tried by holding the neck of it to the ear, it was found that a stronger sound was conveyed by it than would have been without it. It was ordered that at the next meeting there should be brought a better and larger receiver for hearing.

1684. Dr. Lister remarked that fairy-circles were made by the moles running round after one another under-ground in a circle, at the time of their coupling.

April 3, 1679. Mr. Aubrey was desired to write to Mr. Anthony Wood, to understand from him what account he designed to publish of Roger Bacon in his history of the antiquities of Oxford.

April 4, 1666. It was order'd that Mr. Balle should be written to by Mr. Oldenburg, to know what he had done in magnetical experiments, and that he should be desired withal to send up the magnetic apparatus, that was with him.

1672. Mr. Oldenburg communicated a letter to him from Mr. Newton, dated at Cambridge, 30th March 1672, containing his answer to the difficulties objected by Mons. Auzout against his reflecting telescope: together with Mr. Newton's proposal of a way of using, instead of the little oval metal in that telescope, a crystal figured like a triangular prism.

1678. Notice was taken that Mons. Huygens was the first, that found out, that the motion of the weight of a pendulum in a cycloid would make all its excursions isochrone; but that he was not the first, who applied the pendulum to a clock.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. R. B. Braithwaite has been elected to a fellowship at King's College.

The annual report of the General Board of Studies for the year 1922-23 on the progress of the scientific departments has just been issued. A further falling off is noted from the conditions of extreme congestion and overcrowding which marked the years immediately following the War, the chief drop in numbers being reported in the Chemical and Engineering Departments. The completion of the Laboratory of Biochemistry, the equipment and occupation of the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, the preliminary arrangements for a Research Institute for the study of Animal Diseases, and the purchase by the University of the University Farms are typical examples of the rapid growth of Cambridge on the scientific side. The latest development foreshadowed is the establishment of a Horticultural Research Station in connexion with the School of Agriculture. This is made possible by the offer of a grant (up to 2500*l.* for initial outlay and up to 2000*l.* a year for maintenance and salaries) from the Development Commissioners, together with gifts of 950*l.* and further promises for capital expenditure subscribed by societies and individuals interested in the Research Institute. It is proposed to carry out research in fruit and vegetable growing, pomology, plant breeding, chemical and plant physiology, and plant pathology.

Amongst many points of interest in the reports of the heads of the several departments, it is pleasing to note that Prof. Liveing is still working in the chemical laboratory. The Department of Aeronautical Engineering has had the use of a small flight of aeroplanes at the Duxford Aerodrome to assist in research into methods of aerial surveying. The Department of Experimental Psychology reports a marked increase in the number of research students and workers. A visit of a party of advanced students to Brazil during the Long Vacation under Mr. Balfour Browne is reported by the professor of zoology. Each student undertook some special branch of zoology. An exchange of teachers with the University of Basel was arranged; Prof. Zschokke came to Cambridge and Mr. J. T. Saunders went to Basel.

DURHAM.—Dr. Irvine Masson, reader in inorganic chemistry, University College, London, has been appointed professor of chemistry and director of the Science Department in the Durham Colleges of the University.

LONDON.—The following have been awarded the degree of Ph.D. in the Faculty of Science: Mr. F. R. Goss (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for a thesis entitled "Three-carbon Tautomerism," Mr. W. S. Martin (Imperial College—Royal College of Science) for a thesis entitled "The Chemistry of the Soil Solution."

MANCHESTER.—The following honorary degrees are to be conferred at the Founder's Day ceremony on May 21: *D.Sc.*, Prof. Niels Bohr and Prof. Max Weber; *M.Sc.*, Mr. Charles Heape, who has made and presented to the Museum a valuable collection of ethnological specimens.

The degree of *M.Sc.* under the provisions of the Charter II. (3) has been conferred upon Prof. L. J. Mordell, Fielden professor of pure mathematics.

At a meeting of the governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture held on March 12, the appointment of Mr. Overton Fuqua Boyd to be sugar technologist was confirmed. Mr. Boyd graduated at Louisiana State University, and has since acted as chemist to several sugar companies in the United States and West Indies.