

acute infectious disease. He was subject to chronic dyspepsia from an early age, and frequently suffered from catarrhal bronchitis, often associated with deafness and aphonia. He frequently complained of febrile attacks which may have been malarial in origin. His death at the age of eighty-four years was probably due to uræmia following cystitis secondary to enlargement of the prostate which was found on post-mortem examination.

Voltaire was brought into contact with medical men on numerous occasions, both professionally and socially. During his stay in London (1726-29) he appears to have been acquainted with several leading medical men of the time, especially Sir Hans Sloane, Mead and Freind, as well as with other medical fellows of the Royal Society, especially Arbuthnot and Pemberton. He was himself elected F.R.S. in 1743. Among the numerous doctors whom Voltaire consulted the best known are Silva, physician to Louis XIV.; Boerhaave, whose name frequently occurs in Voltaire's works, especially in connexion with chemistry; and Tronchin, whom he described as the greatest physician in Europe and the only one who understood Nature.

Voltaire's works, particularly his correspondence, the "Dictionnaire Philosophique," his tales, and to a less extent his historical works, miscellaneous essays and pamphlets, abound with references to the medical profession. Many allusions are to be found to the masters of medicine, such as Hippocrates, Rhazes, Servetus, Harvey and Sydenham, as well as to celebrated anatomists such as Vesalius, Ruysch, Bartholin and Vieussens, but the medical works with which Voltaire was most familiar was probably that of Astruc on the venereal disease. The passages in which he indulges his satirical humour at the expense of the profession are few and unimportant in comparison with those in which he expresses his admiration and gratitude, and apart from the tales are chiefly to be found in his correspondence, where they are probably not to be taken too seriously. On the other hand, Voltaire was scathing in his denunciation of quacks, and vented his ridicule on many superstitions and erroneous doctrines connected with normal and morbid processes, particularly spontaneous generation, which was upheld by Needham and combated by Spallanzani.

University and Educational Intelligence.

GLASGOW.—The University Court on Thursday, December 10, appointed to the chair of natural philosophy Dr. Edward Taylor Jones, professor of physics in the University College of North Wales, Bangor. In 1899 he succeeded Prof. Andrew Gray in the latter chair, and now succeeds him in Glasgow also. A distinguished pupil of Prof. Gray at Bangor, he graduated with the highest honours in the University of London. With the aid of an "1851 Exhibition" research scholarship, he proceeded to the University of Berlin, where he worked under Profs. Kundt, du Bois, Rubens, von Helmholtz, Planck, and Fuchs. His important memoir on "Electromagnetic Stress" procured him his doctorate. Returning to Bangor in 1896 he was appointed lecturer, and afterwards professor of physics. He has also held in succession the administrative posts of Dean and Chairman of the Faculty of Science, representative of the Senate on the Council, member of the University Court of the University of Wales, and Vice-Principal of the College. Prof. Taylor Jones has published some thirty papers on electrical subjects, in particular on electrical oscillations, coupled circuits, the singing electric arc, and the triode valve generator, all having

important bearings on wireless telegraphy and telephony. He is recognised as having placed the theory of the induction-coil on a sure basis, and his book on that subject is the standard treatise. He also cooperated with the Internal Combustion Engine Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. He will take up his duties in Glasgow at the beginning of next term. He is fifty-two years of age.

LIVERPOOL.—Miss Winifred E. Frost has been appointed to the Herdman Memorial Scholarship for 1925.

Dr. T. P. Hilditch has been appointed to the Campbell Brown chair of industrial chemistry. The appointment is in the first instance with special reference to research on oils, fats, and waxes. Prof. S. H. Gaiger, of the Veterinary College, Edinburgh, has been appointed to the William Prescott chair of the care of animals with special reference to the causation and prevention of disease.

In a lecture delivered on December 4, Prof. G. H. Henderson, of the University of Glasgow, advocated that chemists should endeavour to educate the public to the value of their profession to the community and its importance in national welfare. He would like to see a unified body controlling all chemists and speaking for the profession as a whole.

MANCHESTER.—Prof. A. H. Gibson has been elected Dean of the Faculty of Science. The following appointments have been made:—Dr. J. C. Smith to be assistant lecturer in chemistry; and Mr. J. C. Brierley to be assistant lecturer in engineering drawing (Faculty of Technology). Dr. E. N. Mottram has been awarded the Sir Clements Royd Memorial Scholarship in chemistry.

PROGRAMMES have now been issued of the annual meetings of the Science Masters' Association and of the Association of Women Science Teachers. The Science Masters' Association meets at King's College for Women, London, on January 5-7, under the presidency of the Right Rev. C. W. Barnes, Lord Bishop of Birmingham. The presidential address will be delivered on the first evening of the gathering, and the general programme includes lectures by Dr. T. Slater Price on "The Sensitivity of the Photographic Plate," and by Prof. Leonard Hill on "Sunshine, Open Air, and Health," and discussions on "Science and Citizenship," to be opened by Mr. W. D. Eggar and Mr. O. H. Latter, and on school science examinations, to be opened by Mr. D. J. Berridge, Mr. E. Nightingale and Mr. E. G. Laws. Invitations have been accepted for parties to visit the laboratories of the General Electric Company and also the National Physical Laboratory, while there will be the usual exhibition of apparatus and books by members of the Association and by publishers and instrument-makers. The annual general meeting of the Association of Women Science Teachers will be held on February 6 at St. Paul's Girls' School, London. The programme includes a demonstration by the Visual Education Society of educational films and an address by Miss Coward on the teaching of hygiene in schools. Miss Bond is to move a resolution "that in view of the fact that for the majority of pupils the General School Examination (School Certificate) terminates their study of Botany, it is desirable that the Syllabus in Botany be amended as follows: (1) The number of Families should be very much reduced, and the ability to use a Flora should take the place of most of this detailed knowledge. (2) The life histories of, at least, one Alga and a Fern should be included in the Syllabus. These should be simply treated so as to need only a small amount of microscopic work."