

If assumptions are made as to the structure of molecular models, the consideration of dielectric constants will enable these to be tested, although of course it will not explicitly give us the structure of the molecule. Prof. Compton gives examples of the Lewis-Langmuir type and shows that the electric moments produced by the shifts of the electrons in the formation of molecules are reasonable values.

The binding constant may also be calculated from refractivity data, and the figures derived by Born and Heisenberg, Fajans and Jooz, Smyth and others indicate that the electrons are most easily shifted in ions with small central positive charges (cores) and also in large atoms, where they are far removed from the centre. The deformability of molecules thus indicated has an important bearing on the theory of spectra, and a difficulty in the Ritz formula may perhaps be resolved if it is assumed that the electron shell is distorted by the field of the valency electron rotating about the core of the atom. Prof. Compton indicated that numerous interesting problems still await investigation in other aspects of dielectric constants.

University and Educational Intelligence.

ABERDEEN.—The Senatus has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. on Prof. F. W. Oliver, professor of botany in University College, London; Dr. R. W. Reid, emeritus professor of anatomy in the University of Aberdeen; Prof. T. B. Wood, professor of agriculture in the University of Cambridge.

BIRMINGHAM.—The report of the Principal (Mr. C. Grant Robertson) presented to the annual meeting of the Court of Governors on February 25, shows that the number of students, which had been steadily diminishing since the abnormal period of inflation following the War, last year reached its minimum, and there are indications that recovery has already begun. The percentage of unmatriculated and part-time students continues to decrease.

The construction of the new block for the biological departments at Edgbaston is rapidly progressing, and it is expected that the building will be in use next session. The transfer of these departments, however, will raise a serious problem, in that the Harding Library in its present form will be quite inadequate to meet the consequent increase in the demands on its space.

The new building for the Department of Petroleum Mining is already occupied, and is shortly to be formally opened. In addition, a new laboratory has been erected for the Mining Department and equipped with large-scale experimental plant for the study of scientific and technical problems of coal treatment, the funds being provided by the Central Committee of the Miners' Welfare Fund. The Principal directs attention to the fact that the Mining Department now serves as the post-graduate mining school for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

An appeal is made for more generous support of the University by the midland area generally. In particular, "What is needed to-day is the establishment, on an adequate scale, of post-graduate scholarships. Its absence is a cause of national waste; and no better service to the cause of true education and a heightened national efficiency could be rendered than by the creation of such an endowment."

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. G. F. Shove, University lecturer in economics, has been elected to a fellowship at King's College. Mr. I. A. Richards and Mr. F. McD. C. Turner have been elected to fellowships at Magdalene College.

A slight change has been introduced into the regulations governing medical studies; it is now laid down that no student may attend any course of instruction for the third M.B. examination until he shall have passed the last part of the second examination (pharmacology and general pathology). Some 'young men in a hurry' may find this distasteful, but there is little doubt that the principle on which the change is founded is sound.

The Board of Research Studies is proposing that a summary of each successful thesis for a research degree shall be published in the *Reporter*. Such summaries would then be distributed to the universities from which non-graduate research students are drawn. The present practice is that dissertations are placed in the University Library; some of them never appear in print, and in this way good work is sometimes lost to sight and memory. It is thought that the present proposal would both obviate this possibility and also avoid overlapping in research work. Incidentally, the great increase in numbers of research students at Cambridge in recent years will become apparent.

The governing body of Emmanuel College is offering to a research student, commencing residence in October 1926, a studentship of the annual value of 150*l.* Preference will be given to a candidate who has already completed at least one but not more than two years of research. Applications should reach the Master of Emmanuel (The Master's Lodge, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, England) not later than June 30. Candidates should submit two certificates of good character, a statement of the proposed course of research, and evidence of general ability and of special fitness for the proposed course of research.

LONDON.—The offer of the Petrie Medal Committee, on behalf of the subscribers, of a Petrie Medal and Fund amounting to 75*l.* has been accepted. The Medal is to be awarded once in every three years for distinguished work in archaeology, preferably to a British subject.

Prof. C. A. Lovatt Evans has been appointed as from Aug. 1 to the Jodrell chair of physiology tenable at University College. Since March 1922 Prof. Lovatt Evans has been University professor of physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. During this period he has published "Recent Advances in Physiology" (1925) and edited a new edition of Bainbridge and Menzies' "Essentials of Physiology" (1925).

Dr. G. V. Anrep has been appointed as from March 1, 1926, to the University readership in physiology tenable at University College. Dr. Anrep was educated at the University of Dorpat and at the Medical Faculty of the University of Leningrad. From 1912-14 he was engaged in research work at the University of Leningrad and at University College, London. From 1917 until 1920 he was senior assistant in physiology at the Institute of Experimental Medicine of Leningrad and in 1920 he was appointed assistant, and in 1923 senior assistant in physiology at University College, London. He obtained the D.Sc. degree in physiology in 1923 and has been awarded the Schäfer Prize and the Julius Mickle Fellowship (1924-25) for his research work in this University. His published work includes numerous articles in the *Journ. of Physiol.* (1912-25); *Proc. Roy. Soc.* (1923-25); and in *Heart*.

APPLICATIONS for the Beit fellowships for scientific research should be made upon a prescribed form and sent to reach the Rector, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, S.W.7, by, at latest, April 19.