

known to breed in England, and perhaps this is true of the Sand Grouse, which once seemed to bid fair to become a permanent resident of Martinsell, drinking from its dewponds.

The Society as its serious task records the meteorology of its area, the dates of flowering of plants, of appearances of all kinds of insects, and of the laying of eggs by birds, with other similar information. The splendid old records of Preston and of Smith, of Everard im Thurn, and above all of Edward Meyrick, allow comparisons of the organisms of forty to fifty years ago with those found to-day; but they are to some degree deceptive, as the area for intensive study was practically ten miles in diameter then, while it is now twenty. For purely scientific purposes there should be subdivisions into ecological regions, and this is being attempted by similar societies elsewhere. We believe, however, that boys are gregarious creatures and prefer mass rather than individual studies, and that such changes, if forced, may drive the work entirely into the hands of masters—an action which would kill the object of the Society to suggest natural history to the greatest number of boys as likely to be a delightful hobby in after life.

Clearly, with the boys as first object in view, the Society no longer publishes the research work of one of the masters—A. G. Lowndes—but this is a gain to science, not a loss, as it is readily accepted in specialist journals. He and his pupils keep and breed many animals and plants from ponds, playing with the pH of the water and attempting to correlate form with its variation. The technique is excellent, and Lowndes's work, in proving the negation of Labbé's results on many species of Cyclops, is important. To the boy a live animal is the thing, and we should like to see more records of the keeping and breeding of insects, worms, snails, and all invertebrates in the records of the different sections; indeed, we hold that the museum of every natural history society requires a separate gallery for such work on living animals, and we believe it would prove the popular section of its exhibits.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. W. B. R. King, Fellow of Magdalene College, has been awarded the Sedgwick Prize for an essay on "Contributions to the Geology of some District in which Sedgwick worked." The subject announced for the next award is "A Petrological or Stratigraphical Study of a Rock Group."

EDINBURGH.—At a meeting on Jan. 23, the University Court received, with very great regret, intimation from Sir James Walker of his intention to retire from the chair of chemistry at the end of the current academical year. It was resolved to record the high appreciation of the Court of his long and distinguished service to the University.

The status of University lecturer was conferred upon Dr. Alexander Lauder, head of the Chemistry Department in the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, in recognition of the responsible part which he has long taken in the teaching of chemistry in the curricula for degrees in agriculture and forestry.

The Court received with gratification intimation of a bequest by the late James Sanderson, Galashiels, of five shares of the residue of his estate, to be applied for the advancement or promotion in the University of technical and scientific study and research in the chemistry and engineering branches of the Faculty of Science. The amount of the bequest is estimated at about £35,000.

The offer was accepted of an endowment con-

tributed by former students and others associated with the work of emeritus Prof. Robert Wallace, for the foundation of a University prize, to be known as the "Wallace Prize," to be awarded to the best degree student of the third year in agriculture not holding a Vans Dunlop or Steven Scholarship.

NOTTINGHAM.—In view of the fact that the new buildings, which are being erected by Sir Jesse Boot, Bart., in the University Park, will be opened by H.M. the King in July next, the authorities of University College are contemplating in the near future an appeal to increase the endowment fund of the College. Two members of the Council of the College, Mr. H. F. Lancashire, J.P., and Mr. G. Spencer, J.P., have announced their intention of endowing a chair by a joint gift of £20,000. Mr. Lancashire, who has been on the Council of the College since 1917, and was in 1926 elected a vice-president of the Court of Governors, is managing director of Messrs. J. B. Lewis and Sons, Ltd., hosiery manufacturers of Nottingham and Ilkeston. He took an active part in the reorganisation of the Textiles Department of the College in 1920, and has been for some years chairman of the Textiles Advisory Committee. It is no doubt due to his untiring energy that University College, Nottingham, now possesses possibly the finest hosiery laboratory in Great Britain. Mr. George Spencer, who was elected a member of the College Council in 1923, is head of the firm of Messrs. George Spencer and Co., hosiery manufacturers, of Nottingham, Hucknall, and Lutterworth. Mr. Spencer has for many years taken a great interest in the work of the College, and is one of the two trustees of the Revis Bequest, whereby the College acquired a sum of approximately £49,000, the interest on which is to be devoted to the provision of scholarships and studentships.

The new buildings occupy a commanding position in the new University Park, and will provide accommodation for the Faculties of Arts, Pure Science, and Economics and Commerce. The Applied Science Faculty will remain at the old building in Shakespeare Street, with the exception of the Heat Engines Laboratory connected with the Engineering Department, for which provision is being made in a special block of the new buildings. A hall of residence, accommodating eighty women students, is being erected in the University Park, and it is hoped that this will be ready for occupation during the ensuing session. The playing fields of sixteen acres are situated in the Park, within a few minutes' walk of the University and the Hostel. Sir Jesse Boot bore the cost of the laying out of these, and also of the erection of the sports pavilion and the women's hostel.

OXFORD.—It is understood that during the next two terms the problems presented by the congested state of the Bodleian Library will be seriously considered by the Hebdomadal Council. The principle of separate faculty libraries has already been accepted in the case of Law and Natural Science. Novels are shelved in cellars far removed from the main library, so there are precedents for the separation of that vast mass of 'deposited' literature, much of it of doubtful value, that at present dilutes, and renders difficult of access, the more valuable portions of the library.

A lecture delivered on Jan. 26 on "Isocrates in England" in ancient Greek by the Public Orator is in the nature of a revival of a lecture founded in 1583, the year in which Galileo watched the pendulum in the Duomo at Florence. It was noticeable that the lecturer does not include natural science among the subjects to be taught to boys between 16 and 18 years of age; evidently pendulums are still swinging.

Dr. F. A. Dixey, late Sub-Warden, Wills Medical Fellow and Bursar of Wadham College, has been elected to an emeritus fellowship.