

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The title of Girdlers lecturer in economics has been conferred on Mr. G. F. Shove, of King's College. Mr. H. H. Nicholson, of Selwyn College, has been appointed University lecturer in agricultural chemistry.

The following elections have been announced:—To an Isaac Newton studentship, founded for the encouragement of study and research in astronomy and physical optics, value £250 a year for three years: R. van der Riet Woolley, of Gonville and Caius College, formerly of the University of Cape Town, who was a wrangler with mark of distinction in the Mathematical Tripos of 1928; to additional Isaac Newton studentships, tenable in each case for one year: V. V. Narliker, Non-Coll., and L. C. Young, Trinity.

At the annual general meeting of the Cambridge Philosophical Society held on Oct. 27, Prof. F. J. M. Stratton was elected president, and the following new members of the council were elected: Mr. J. W. Landon, Dr. E. D. Adrian, Mr. F. Debenham, and Mr. W. R. Dean.

NOTICE is given by the Chemical Society that applications for grants from the research fund of the Society must reach the assistant secretary, on prescribed forms, by at latest Dec. 1. Applicants are reminded that the income arising from the donation of the Goldsmiths' Company is to be more or less especially devoted to the encouragement of research in inorganic and metallurgical chemistry, and that the income from the Perkin Memorial Fund is to be applied to investigations relating to problems connected with the coal tar and allied industries.

THE Association of University Teachers has as one of its objects the promotion of exchanges of opinion not only between the universities of Britain but also between them and the universities of other nations. To further this aim, a short visit to French universities was recently organised with the cordial and very efficient help of M. Desclos, of the Office National des Universités et Écoles françaises. Fifteen members of the Association took part in the visit, which embraced the three universities of Paris, Lille, and Dijon. A report of facts elicited in the course of their investigations, with an account of some of their impressions and inferences, is published under the title "The French University System" in the October number of *The Universities Review*, issued by the Association, price 2s. This gives, in thirty pages, an informative and interesting conspectus of the university in relation to the State; the relation of the university to the general system of education; the university in relation to the cultural and economic life of France and other countries; the constitution and establishment of the university; university finance; staffing; student life and work; and courses and examinations. The report brings out some instructive comparisons and contrasts. At the head of each of the seventeen regional units, known as 'académies', in which the administration of public instruction in France is organised, stands the 'Recteur de l'Université'. Of this functionary the report observes that his duties, comprise those of vice-chancellor, principal, president, and treasurer of the university, and in addition those of local director of education, member of the university grants committee, and official of the board of education. "Formidable and even autocratic as the authority of the Recteur may appear to be, we found that university dependence on the State entailed far less sacrifice of educational freedom than we were inclined to expect."

Historic Natural Events.

Nov. 9, 1883. **Brilliant Sunset in England.**—About ten minutes before sunset, the sky being very clear and a deep blue except for a few fleeces of cirrocumulus nearly overhead, the sun turned unusually white and descended in a slight haze, with curious greenish white and yellowish white opalescence in the upper part. About 15 minutes after sunset the sky turned a brilliant but delicate pink, beneath which a shining green and white opalescence hung like a luminous mist. The effect grew with increasing darkness, and lit up the landscape, although the moon was shining brightly. The horizon, remained deep red until nearly 6 P.M. These remarkable sunsets, and similar effects at sunrise, were visible throughout the winter, and were due to the dust thrown into the air by the explosive volcanic eruption of Krakatoa, on Aug. 26–28, 1883.

Nov. 11, 1099. **Storm in the North Sea.**—A violent storm at high tide flooded the coasts of Holland and England as far as Kent, including the Thames Estuary. It is said that 100,000 persons lost their lives.

Nov. 11, 1572. **Nova Cassiopeiæ.**—On this date, Tycho Brahe at his observatory at Uraniborg saw that a new star, surpassing the other stars in brilliancy, had appeared in the constellation Cassiopeiæ. At first the nova was as bright as Venus at its maximum brightness and could be seen by keen-sighted people near midday. It then slowly declined, but in February and March 1573 it was still as bright as the first magnitude stars; by February 1574 it had reached the sixth magnitude, and by the end of March it ceased to be visible to naked-eye vision. There were accompanying changes in the colour of the nova—from white to yellow, then to a reddish hue, and lastly it became "like lead, somewhat like Saturn". Measurements of its position convinced Tycho Brahe that "this star is not some kind of comet or a fiery meteor . . . but that it is a star shining in the firmament itself—one that has never previously been seen before our time, in any age since the beginning of the world". Pliny records that Hipparchus is said to have observed a new star; since that of 1572, there have been thirteen bright novæ discovered the most notable being those of 1604, 1901, and 1918.

Nov. 12, 1236. **Inundations in East of England.**—The sea burst out with such high tides and tempests of wind that the marsh countries were drowned and overflowed, and great herds and flocks perished, besides many persons. The sea rose continuously for two days and one night without ebbing, owing to the great violence of the wind. At Wisbech and neighbouring villages many people were drowned, one hundred in one village.

Nov. 14–15, 1574. **Aurora.**—Stow records in his "Annals" that there "were seen in the Air strange Impressions of Fire and Smoak to proceed forth of a black Cloud in the North towards the South . . . the next Night following, the Heavens from all parts did seem to burn marvellous ragingly, and over our Heads the Flames from the Horizon round about rising did meet, and there double and roll one in another, as if it had been in a clear Furnace".

Nov. 14, 1854. **"Balaclava" Storm.**—The British and French fleets and transports lying outside Balaclava Harbour, in the Black Sea, were wrecked and scattered by a violent gale, accompanied by rain which afterwards turned to snow. The loss of stores caused intense suffering among the allied troops in the severe winter which followed. The course of this storm across Europe was afterwards studied by the