

University and Educational Intelligence.

LONDON.—Applications for grants from the Dixon Fund, for assistance in scientific investigations, must be received before May 15 by the Academic Registrar, University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7. Those for grants from the Thomas Smythe Hughes Fund, for assistance in medical research, must be received by the Academic Registrar not later than May 15.

OXFORD.—The recommendations of the committee appointed to consider and report on the provision of library facilities in Oxford have been embodied in a decree to be promulgated in Congregation on May 7. The recommendations include, as already noticed in NATURE of Mar. 28, p. 493, the enlargement of the Radcliffe Scientific Library by the addition of a new wing.

ST. ANDREWS.—The Senatus Academicus will confer the honorary degree of LL.D. on the following, among others, on June 26: Sir James Hopwood Jeans; Dr. G. M. Robertson, professor of psychiatry in the University of Edinburgh; Rev. Alfred Young, formerly fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, rector of the parish of Birdbrook, Halstead, Essex, distinguished for his mathematical work.

UNDER the will of the late Mr. John McMaster, of Harbledown, near Canterbury, who died on Feb. 10, the Ayrshire Education Authority will receive £300 a year for the establishment and maintenance of bursaries or scholarships to be known as "John McMaster Bursaries", tenable at the Universities of Edinburgh or Glasgow, and open to boys educated at Girvan Secondary School whose parents are in necessitous circumstances; and the Governors of Simon Langton Boys' School, Canterbury, £350 a year for the establishment and maintenance of scholarships to be known as "John McMaster Scholarships", tenable at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, or London, to be awarded to boys of that school.

THE Educational Travel Association is arranging a summer holiday course in the methods of regional survey and in open-air geography, in Norway. The fjords, the subarctic tableland, and the eastern valleys round Oslo will be visited. The party will sail from Newcastle on Aug. 8. Particulars of the itinerary may be obtained by sending a 2d. stamp to the honorary secretary, E. T. A., "Noddfa", Wistaston, Crewe (or, c/o Cheshire Training College, Crewe), who will supply an illustrated booklet and map, and a programme of excursions to glaciers and various land forms, as well as to the Norwegian open-air museum, Viking ships, and Amundsen's unique collection of Eskimo tools, clothing, and kayaks. Instruction in field work in the open-air sciences will be given to members of the party desiring it.

THE League of Nations Union, in co-operation with the American School Citizenship League, has again arranged a prize essay competition open to both British and American schools. Prizes of 75 dollars, 50 dollars, and 25 dollars, known as the Seabury Prizes, are offered for the best essays in each of the following sections: (1) Open to all pupils in public and secondary schools in the British Isles, on "What Subjects in the School Curriculum are Best Adapted to Show the Interdependence of Peoples?"; and (2) open to all students in teachers' training colleges and university training departments, on "The Influence of Intellectual Co-operation in the Promotion of

World Friendship". Essays, which must not exceed 3000 words and must be written on one side only of paper with a margin of at least one inch, must reach the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1, not later than July 1 and should bear the writer's name, age, school, and home address.

A LIST of international fellowships for research, compiled by the International Federation of University Women and published in pamphlet form, gives particulars of many hundreds of stipends available for advanced study and research in countries other than the stipend-holder's own. The first and largest section relates to fellowships available only to nationals of one country. Among other interesting items in this section are 42 American-German exchange scholarships and about 170 Hungarian scholarships tenable in Vienna (40 to 56), Rome (40 to 46), Berlin (35), Great Britain (14), and elsewhere. Great Britain's place in this section is a large one and so is Sweden's. Section II. contains fellowships open to students from more than one country or irrespective of nationality. These are almost exclusively provided from British and American sources. Appended is a list of nineteen prizes open for international competition. Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained, price 1s. 3d. post free, from the British Federation of University Women, Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, London, S.W.3.

Birthdays and Research Centres.

April 11, 1863.—Mr. HENRY BALFOUR, F.R.S., curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.

I am at present investigating the stone implements of the Tasmanians, their technique and the culture-status which they suggest.

The scientific classification of primitive musical instruments and the determination of the geographical dispersal of related and analogous types would be a useful undertaking. Primary classification must be based upon the exact method or mechanism whereby the sound is initiated; the means whereby the notes may be varied being of secondary importance. In the new edition (fifth) of "Notes and Queries on Anthropology", pp. 295-308, I have suggested a scheme of primary grouping, as an aid to descriptions and diagnosis of types of instruments. Accurate description of the various means adopted for the production of the vibrations causing sound are required, in order to arrive at a satisfactory phylogenetic classification of musical instruments, and to enable the distribution of particular types to be mapped out.

April 23, 1858.—Prof. MAX PLANCK, For.Mem.R.S., professor of mathematical physics in the University of Berlin.

Die theoretische Physik ist durch die Quantentheorie etwas in Unordnung geraten. Sicher ist, dass von den bisher allgemein angenommenen Grundsätzen mindestens einer geopfert werden muss, um die übrigen aufrecht erhalten zu können. Dies vollkommen klarzustellen ist eine der wichtigsten Aufgaben der nächsten Forschung. Soweit ich sehe, gehört zu den Sätzen, welche unter allen Umständen beizubehalten sind, die Voraussetzung einer vollkommenen Gesetzmässigkeit in allen physikalischen Vorgängen; dagegen zu denjenigen, welche fallen gelassen werden müssen, die Voraussetzung, dass der gesetzliche Ablauf eines Vorgangs dargestellt werden kann mittelst einer Zerlegung desselben in seine räumlichen und zeitlichen Elemente. Es ist also der Begriff der Ganzheit, der wie auf dem Gebiet der Biologie so auch auf dem der Physik eingeführt werden muss, um die Gesetzmässigkeit der Natur verstehen und formulieren zu können.