

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. C. E. Tilley, of Emmanuel College, has been elected to the professorship of mineralogy and petrology as from October 1.

LEEDS.—The West Yorkshire Coal Owners' Association has offered the University of Leeds an additional grant of nearly £1300 a year for the purpose of financing a scheme of research into industrial fluctuations and other matters, with special reference to their bearing upon the coal-mining and allied industries. The University Council has gratefully accepted this offer, and the work will be carried out under the direction of Prof. J. H. Jones, head of the Department of Economics. The Mining Department of the University has enjoyed a large measure of support from the West Yorkshire Coal Owners' Association, which for some time past has been making a grant in aid of the Department of £1000 a year. The Association was also one of the largest donors to the appeal issued in 1925, its gift of £25,000 being one of the factors which allowed the Mining Department to be dealt with as the first item in the building scheme. The total of the contributions made by the Association to the University exceeds £40,000.

THE Congress of Universities of the Empire, under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, opened in London on July 1. On the first day several educational institutions and medical schools were open for inspection to members of the Congress and there was a special exhibition of educational and cultural films at Bush House. On July 3 the Prince of Wales held a reception and addressed the Congress in the Guildhall. The rest of the time in London was spent in visiting other educational institutions in and around London. On July 6 the Congress proceeds to Edinburgh, where it will remain in session until July 11. On July 7 the Lord Provost of Edinburgh will deliver an address, and in the afternoon there will be a meeting of members of the Universities' Bureau of the British Empire. The Marquess of Linlithgow will address the Congress on July 8, and this will be followed by discussions on the position of the university graduate in commerce and industry, and the standard and conditions of candidature for the degree of Ph.D. in relation to other post-graduate qualifications. The former discussion will be opened by Sir Robert Waley Cohen and the latter by Prof. D. Nichol Smith. On July 9, Lord Meston will give an address and Prof. F. E. Sandbach will open a discussion on the conditions of admission to universities. Later, Prof. W. E. Collinson will open a discussion on the provision of schemes of study leading to general honours degrees. Sir Donald MacAlister, Bart., will address the Congress on July 10. On the same day there will be a discussion on post-graduate study in medicine and surgery in Great Britain, which will be opened by Dr. H. L. Eason, and Sir Thomas Holland will open the last discussion of the Congress on the facilities for overseas students in British universities. Many excursions to places of educational and other interest, also receptions, have been arranged for the entertainment of members.

Birthdays and Research Centres.

July 6, 1873.—Mr. S. G. BROWN, F.R.S., electrical engineer.

I am at present engaged on gyroscopic problems concerned with the sea, land, and air, which have been placed before me by the British and foreign governments. I am always willing to deal with any problems, and in fact I welcome them.

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I am also engaged at the moment with acoustical and sound reproduction apparatus, especially in connexion with talking picture equipments and adaptations.

I am convinced that there are still vast fields to be explored where my reed telephone and microphone sound relay can usefully be employed, and I am working on these. My latest invention is the Microbox pick-up, a gramophone pick-up which can be used without employing valves or high power amplifiers. The only energy required can be derived from an ordinary 6-volt battery, and the pick-up can be used with ordinary or portable gramophones and it replaces the ordinary electrical pick-up.

July 8, 1861.—Sir J. ARTHUR THOMSON, formerly Regius professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen.

Since I retired from my Aberdeen professorship last autumn, I have been completing, with the help of Miss Isobel Dean, a large memoir on the Alcyonacea of the Siboga Expedition. Before I stop this sort of Linnæan work, to which I have devoted so many years, I should like to follow others in giving a general survey of the evolution of the alcyonarians. Along with my teacher and friend Patrick Geddes, I have just completed a somewhat detailed unconventional outline of general biology. But most of all, I am afraid, I have just been enjoying the luxury of doing nothing.

July 9, 1869.—Dr. J. W. MELLOR, F.R.S., principal of the Pottery Department, North Staffordshire Technical College, Stoke-on-Trent, and Director of Research of the British Refractories Research Association.

In the research laboratories, investigations are being conducted under the auspices of the British Refractories Research Association on the nature and properties of the materials employed in the silicate industries; on the nature of the action of industrial furnaces on refractory materials; and on the manufacture of materials best fitted to resist the destructive agencies in the different types of industrial furnaces.

July 10, 1854.—Dr. GEORGE LINDSAY JOHNSON, ophthalmic surgeon to H.M. Forces in Natal.

I am now engaged in completing a large work which has occupied my attention during my spare moments for upwards of forty years, namely, the comparative anatomy and physiology of the vertebrate eye, embracing nearly all available living families and genera of the mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, with references to the eyes of the birds and fishes. Two abstracts of this work have already been published in the *Transactions* of the Royal Society (1901 and 1904), with more than a hundred illustrations in colour and numerous illustrations in black and white on plates and in the text. I hope to have this work published during the current year. My chief reason why its publication has been delayed is due to the great expense of printing the coloured drawings, of which there are more than three hundred.

The practical utility of this work lies in its affording help towards the classification of the Vertebrata, which in a great many instances requires modification. This is especially the case among the families and genera of the rodents. There are still a few animals' eyes to be examined and depicted which I have hitherto been unable to procure or depict. Finally, the optical problems of refraction and accommodation, especially of amphibian mammals, require to be restudied. I would appeal to my colleagues (especially mathematicians and oculists) to assist me in this latter undertaking.