

## University and Educational Intelligence

**BIRMINGHAM.**—At the annual meeting of the Court of Governors held on Feb. 25, the vice-chancellor (Sir Charles Grant Robertson) stated that the University is making special efforts to forward the study of biology by increasing the supply of competent teachers available for schools and universities. He directed attention also to the highly successful work of the Appointments Board, the annual number of posts found by this board for Birmingham graduates having increased from 226 in 1924 to 346 in 1930, making a total of 1727, at a cost of about £100 a year. The economical working is due largely to the co-operation of the staff.

Prof. W. S. Boulton, professor of geology since 1913, is retiring at the end of the present session.

**CAMBRIDGE.**—J. O. Girsavicius (Gonville and Caius College) has been appointed to the Benn W. Levy research studentship in biochemistry for one year.

**LONDON.**—The following degrees have recently been conferred: D.Sc. (Botany) on Mr. M. A. H. Tincker, for seven published works dealing with the physiology of economic plants, together with four subsidiary contributions. D.Sc. (Physics) on Mr. F. H. Schofield, for eight published works on thermal conductivity and precision measurements of high temperatures, together with three subsidiary contributions. D.Sc. (Geology) on Mr. R. W. Pocock (Birkbeck College), for a thesis entitled "Contributions to the Geology of the West Midlands", consisting of four papers (*Geol. Survey*, 1921 and 1925, and *J. Geol. Soc.*, 1930–31).

THE result of the appeal made last year to former students of the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and friends and colleagues of the late Sir Francis Grant Ogilvie, the first principal of the College, has made possible the establishment of a Grant Ogilvie Memorial Prize Fund. The income of the Fund will provide two prizes, which will be awarded annually to the best students in the final years of the diploma course in electrical engineering and chemistry.

A NEW list of holiday courses in Europe has recently been compiled and published by the League of Nations Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, in three languages, English, French, and German (Oxford University Press, Warwick Square, London, E.C.4. Price 1s.). This list of courses open to foreign students contains all the essential information on 135 holiday courses to be held during 1932 in 17 different countries and 82 cities.

DOCTORATES conferred in the sciences by American universities are reviewed year by year for the National Research Council, Washington, and the titles of the theses, arranged under subject group headings, are published with statistical summaries in the Council's Reprint and Circular series. The review for 1930–31 shows that the number of these doctorates has increased steadily since the series began in 1920, from 330 conferred by 31 universities to 1147 conferred by 63. It provides data for what may, perhaps not too fancifully, be called the climatology of scientific research. Chemistry, as usual, claims a third of the aggregate of the labours of the new doctors—in Ohio State University, Columbia, and Illinois, one-half. Next to chemistry comes zoology, in which from fifteen to twenty per cent of the doctorates were conferred in California, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Iowa State College, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Yale. Next in order come psychology, physics, botany, mathematics,

each of which is responsible for more than seventy doctorates, followed by physiology, agriculture, geology, bacteriology, pathology, engineering, and public health. Of the twenty theses on public health subjects, no less than sixteen belong to Johns Hopkins University. In the lists of titles, students will find indications of the lines of research favoured in America; that, for example, much of the research in psychology is concerned with observations of conditioned reflexes in white rats. Cancer research is conspicuous by its absence from the lists. Looking back over the records of ten years, the only important exceptions to the general increase by two hundred or more per cent in the number of doctorates conferred under the several subject group headings are physics (160 per cent), geology (170 per cent), and pathology (decrease by 4 per cent).

## Calendar of Geographical Exploration

### March 7, 1778.—Cook's Last Voyage

Capt. Cook reached the north-west coast of America in about lat.  $44\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N. In the summer of 1776, Cook, in the *Resolution*, accompanied by Charles Clerke in the *Discovery*, had sailed on a voyage of exploration for the British Admiralty to the northern region of the Pacific coast of America, with the view of discovering a route thither via the Arctic. A few new islands were discovered in the Pacific, including the atoll named Christmas Island, where an eclipse of the sun was observed on Dec. 30. On Jan. 18, Hawaii was discovered, and the group was named the Sandwich Islands, after the Earl of Sandwich, who had done so much to encourage Cook's explorations; the Spaniards had probably visited the group in the sixteenth century. The coast of America north of  $40^{\circ}$  N. was practically unknown before Cook's visit. His vessels anchored in Nootka Sound, and thence proceeded north, naming islets and inlets as they went. Cook's Bay was thoroughly explored, and conclusive proof was obtained that no passage through to Hudson's Bay existed. The coast of the Alaskan Peninsula was surveyed, and Cape Prince of Wales reached and named. Crossing the strait to the Asiatic side, Cook made acquaintance with the Chukchee, returned to the American side, and pushed north to Cape Lisburne. Ice on both coasts and in the open sea compelled the vessels to return. On the west coast of Hawaii, Cook was murdered by the natives. Capt. Clerke took charge and decided to continue Cook's work in the northern Pacific, but he died on Aug. 2, 1779, and was buried at Petropavlovsk (Kamchatka). The vessels then returned, reaching the Nore in 1780. Cook's previous voyages contributed so much to exploration that his remarkable achievement in these northern regions is sometimes overlooked.

### March 7, 1925.—Eastern Bolivia

Col. P. H. Fawcett, leading an expedition to explore eastern Bolivia, reported from Cuyaba, Brazil, that his party was fit and his instruments were in good condition. Fawcett stayed at Cuyaba until April 20, and thence started on his proposed exploration of the Xinga, Araguaya, and Tocantin regions. A dispatch, dated May 30, 1925, from a camp in lat.  $11^{\circ} 43' S.$ , long.  $54^{\circ} 35' W.$ , was the last that was heard of him and his son and a young Englishman, R. Rimell. G. M. Dyott left for Brazil in 1928 to search for the party, and succeeded in crossing from Cuyaba to the Kulisehu River and thence reached the Xingu, following it to the Amazon. His journey was a remarkable feat of exploration, but it failed to find Fawcett and his party, and Dyott concluded that they had been