

### University and Educational Intelligence

CAMBRIDGE.—It is proposed to confer the degree of Sc.D. *honoris causa* upon Sir William Bragg, director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

A lecture on the Liversidge Foundation will be delivered by Prof. A. V. Hill, Foulerton Research Professor of the Royal Society, on Friday, May 13, at 5 P.M., on "Chemical Wave Transmission in Nerve".

EDINBURGH.—Sir Thomas Hudson Beare, professor of engineering, has been granted leave of absence, having been appointed leader of the official delegation from Great Britain to the Congress of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, to be held in Paris on May 19-25.

The Scottish Universities' Committee of the Privy Council has approved of a scheme for the affiliation to the University of the Heriot-Watt College. An ordinance is to be prepared in conformity with the provisions of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889, giving effect to the scheme.

Dr. George W. M'Creagh, assistant in the Department of Chemistry, is exchanging for one year from Oct. 1, 1932, with Prof. Warren C. Vosburgh, of Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.

MANCHESTER.—Applications are invited for the Grisedale biological scholarship (botany or zoology, preferably the latter), value £200. The scholarship is offered to graduates who have already had some training in research. The latest date for the receipt of applications is June 1. They should be sent to the Registrar of the University.

THE London County Council is again offering two Robert Blair fellowships in applied science and technology, each of the value of £450 and each tenable for a year. The scholarships are for advanced study, and will be tenable in the dominions, the U.S.A., or abroad. Particulars and application forms are obtainable from the Education Officer (T.3), County Hall, S.E.1. Completed forms must be returned by June 1.

The twenty-third Conference of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions is to be held at Cardiff on May 14-17. The first public meeting will be on Whit Monday, when the Conference will be officially welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, and the retiring president, Mr. H. Ade Clark, will induct the president for 1932-33, Mr. S. H. Moorfield, Wigan and District Mining and Technical College. Among the topics to be discussed by the Conference are the relation of education and industry, junior instruction centres, junior technical schools, and recruitment for industry. An exhibition of books and apparatus will be held in the Technical College during the Conference.

### Calendar of Geographical Exploration

May 8, 1922.—The Alps of Chinese Tibet

Prof. J. W. Gregory, accompanied by C. J. Gregory, left Bhamo on the Upper Irrawaddy and went to Tengueh, covering 145 miles in 8 days. Thence they crossed the Salween and went to Yungchang, afterwards exploring a region completely unknown from the geological point of view, and very little known geographically. They reached the valley of the Yangtse Kiang after ascending the Loma Ho and discovering a series of hot springs. In 1893, Prof. Gregory examined the East African Rift valley northward from Lake Naivasha to Lake Baringo; he is now on an expedition in the Andes.

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May 9, 1926.—To the Poles by Aeroplane

Commander R. E. Byrd, with F. Bennett, made the pioneer aeroplane flight to the north pole and back, from Spitsbergen. In 1928-29, from a base near the Bay of Whales, Byrd examined Marie Byrd Land, and also flew to the south pole and back.

May 10, 1553.—Willoughby and Chancellor

Sir Hugh Willoughby, in the *Bona Esperanza*, accompanied by two other vessels, left Ratcliffe on a voyage which was intended to open a northern route to India. The equipment of the vessels was carried out under the direction of Sebastian Cabot, then an old man. On July 14 they landed on the Norwegian coast, in that region from which Othere had begun his voyage to the White Sea in the time of Alfred the Great. Two of the vessels reached the coast of Russian Lapland and found a good harbour at the mouth of the Arzina River, probably the modern Varzina, but during the winter Willoughby and all his men died, probably of scurvy. Russian fishermen found the two vessels and the corpses in the following year. Willoughby's will showed that he was alive in January 1554. The third vessel, the *Edward Bonaventura*, commanded by Chancellor, was separated from its two companions by a storm in August 1553, and reached the mouth of the Northern Dwina in the White Sea, where a small monastery existed and where the port of Archangel later developed as a result of Chancellor's voyage. Chancellor and his companions were invited to Moscow, and the route from England to Russia via Archangel was established shortly afterwards. The expedition thus had very different results from those expected by its promoters. Chancellor was wrecked near Aberdeen in November 1556, when conveying a Russian embassy and a cargo of goods from the Dwina River. He and his wife and seven Russians were drowned.

May 12, 1539.—Discovery of the Mississippi

Hernando de Soto started from Havana, and landed in Espiritu Santo Bay, on the west coast of the present State of Florida, in search of the gold reported by Gabez de Vaca. He probably passed into Georgia as far as 35° N., then south to the region where Mobile now stands, and finally north-west to the Mississippi, which he reached in 1541. He wintered on the Ouachita, in what is now Arkansas and Louisiana, west of the Mississippi. On the return journey along the Mississippi, de Soto died in 1542, but his men, under Luis Moscoso de Alvarado, descended the river to the sea from a point near its junction with the Arkansas, the voyage occupying 19 days. Thence they coasted along the Gulf of Mexico to Panuco. This important journey was the first extensive exploration of the southern United States; it resulted in the discovery of the Mississippi, and gave to the world the first account of the social customs of the Indians of the southern States.

May 12, 1721.—Greenland

A Norwegian missionary, Hans Egede, with his wife and family, sailed from Denmark, and landed on the west coast of Greenland near Godthaab. He lived there until 1736, and collected much information about the south-western districts and the Eskimo tribes. Greenland had been known to the Norse, Eric the Red having sailed there in 982 and spent three years in its south-western regions. The Norse colonies there flourished at first but died out in the fifteenth century, J. Davis finding no trace of them in 1585. Egede's settlement led to renewed exploration and colonisation of the interior.