

to say, the rooms in which Sir Frederick received the guests were not the apartments known to Priestley, for when in 1773 at the hands of Sir John Pringle he received the famous Copley medal, the Society was still housed in Crane Court, whence, seven years later, it removed to Somerset House. But no doubt Priestley would have found much with which he had once been familiar, for when he was admitted a fellow of the Society in 1766, the Society was more than a hundred years old, and among the exhibits open to the visitors on March 15 was the Charter Book signed by all fellows.

The most interesting exhibits at the Royal Society's reception were those relating to Priestley himself, gathered together from many sources. Among these were to be seen a letter in French intimating to Priestley that he had been nominated for the National Convention, an honour he wisely and firmly declined; the diploma and seal given to him by the Empress Catherine II of Russia and his Copley medal, presented with such graciousness by Sir John Pringle, who remarked that the Society awarded it to him "as a faithful and unfading testimony of their regard, and of the just sense they have of your merit, and of the persevering industry with which you have promoted the views, and thereby the honour of the Society". The diploma, seal and medal were recently bequeathed to the Society by one of Priestley's great-granddaughters and it was to a great-great-granddaughter, Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, that the Society was indebted for the loan of some of the other exhibits, including the letter referred to. Most of Priestley's books, manuscripts and apparatus were destroyed in the fire at Birmingham in July 1791. Another exhibit of great interest was a series of documents, hitherto unpublished, lent by Lord Lansdowne. Beside the Priestley exhibition, there was also a small collection of documents recalling Pepys's connexion with the Royal Society. During the evening Sir Harold Hartley gave an address on Priestley's work.

The Priestley bicentenary was also commemorated in the provinces and his association with Lancashire, Yorkshire and Warwickshire was recalled by articles in the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Leeds Mercury* and the *Birmingham Mail*. His connexion with Leeds was a very close one, for he was born at Fieldhead, close to the city, he attended Batley Grammar School, and in 1767 became the minister of Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel. On March 11, therefore, the Old Boys' Association of Batley Grammar School had a Priestley commemoration dinner at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, and on the following day a special service was held in Mill Hill Chapel, which was attended by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Alderman R. H. Blackburn, and members of the Leeds Philosophical Society. During the course of his sermon, the Rev. W. L. Schroeder, referring to Priestley's statue in the city square, said it was symbolic of Priestley's endeavour to bring the light of truth within the reach of all; adding that though most people thought of Priestley as a man of science, it was more important that he was a minister, all of whose activities were devoted to the glory of God and the happiness of mankind.

The Chemical Society will commemorate the Priestley bicentenary by a special meeting in its rooms at Burlington House, London, W.1, on April 6 at 8 p.m., when papers will be read by Prof. A. N. Meldrum, Sir Philip Hartog and Sir Harold Hartley.

University and Educational Intelligence

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. W. J. Courtauld has provided the sum of £6,000 for the repair of glasshouses in the Botanic Garden.

Sir Charles S. Sherrington will deliver the Rede lecture at 5 P.M. on May 24. The subject will be "Mechanism and the Brain".

Prof. B. L. Van der Waerden will deliver the Rouse Ball foundation lecture on April 24 at noon. The subject will be "The Aims of Modern Algebra".

It has been recommended that Dr. U. R. Evans be appointed assistant director of research in metallurgy for the period during which he holds the Royal Society Armourers and Braziers' research fellowship in metallurgy; and that the post of assistant in experimental research in crystallography be established in the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology for F. I. G. Rawlins, of Trinity College.

C. C. Hurst, of Trinity College, and A. F. Halli- mond, of Pembroke College, have been approved for the degree of Sc.D.

WALES.—The Council has accepted with regret the resignation of Dr. S. Dickinson, assistant lecturer in botany at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff, on his appointment as research assistant in mycology in the Department of Agriculture in the University of Cambridge.

WITH the twenty-first volume, recently published, the series of "Methods and Problems of Medical Education" issued by the Rockefeller Foundation of New York is for the time being brought to a close. This series was begun in 1924 and has comprised volumes of articles devoted to descriptions of teaching facilities and methods in the field of medical education. The present volume deals with nursing education and schools of nursing, and several institutions in the United States and Canada, Peiping and Bangkok, are described and illustrated. Articles on nursing education in England, Denmark, Finland, France and Hungary are also included.

BILINGUALISM and the employment as a medium of instruction and examination of a language other than the mother tongue of the student give rise to problems of educational administration in many parts of the British Empire and especially in India. Some of these problems are dealt with in a report recently published by the Government of India, Central Publications Branch, Calcutta (pp. 48, price As. 10 or 1s.) on the use of the mother-tongue in the matriculation examination of the University of Bombay. It appears that since 1925, matriculation candidates have been permitted to write either in English or in their mother-tongues their answers in history and in Indian classical languages, and the proportion of candidates who have availed themselves of this option to write their history answers in their mother-tongue has steadily increased from one fifth in 1926 to two thirds in 1931, although more than half of the students in the high schools in the Presidency are receiving instruction in English. An analysis of matriculation results goes to show that those who answered the history papers in their mother tongue as a rule gained higher marks than the others but did badly in English.