

University Events

CAMBRIDGE.—The eighth course of Scott Lectures are being given by Prof. W. J. de Haas, of the Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory, Leyden, in the Cavendish Laboratory at 4.30 p.m. on May 3, 5 and 7. The subject of the course is "Low Temperature Research".

It is recommended that two additional University demonstratorships be established in the Department of Anatomy from October 1.

Dr. H. H. Thomas is proposed as the representative of the University at the International Congress of the History of Science to be held in Prague on September 22–27.

LIVERPOOL.—Dr. Hugh Gordon, lecturer in botany, has been appointed to a lectureship in botany, University of Tasmania, as from June 30.

MANCHESTER.—The completion of the New Arts Library, which will be formally opened by Sir Walter H. Moberly on June 2, releases the whole of the Christie Library for the housing of scientific books.

The University has launched an appeal for £300,000 for development and a further annual income of £10,000. Among the proposed extensions are a new dental school and hospital, presented by Mr. Samuel Turner of Rochdale, and a new laboratory for the school of physico-chemical research directed by Prof. M. Polanyi, which at present is most inadequately housed.

The Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of £5,000, to be spread over four years, in aid of the biochemical research work being carried out under the direction of Prof. I. M. Heilbron.

Mr. R. W. James, reader in experimental physics, has resigned his post on appointment to the chair of physics in the University of Capetown. Dr. D. Sheehan, lecturer in neuro-anatomy, has resigned on his appointment to the chair of anatomy in the College of Medicine, University of New York.

Among the appointments announced this year are: Dr. Samuel Tolansky to be lecturer in physics; Mr. W. S. Walker and Mr. W. G. Wainwright, to be demonstrators in chemical technology; and Mr. H. B. May, to be assistant lecturer in bacteriology.

OXFORD.—G. R. Girdlestone, New College, has been appointed Nuffield professor of orthopaedic surgery while holding the post of clinical director of the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital.

Prof. J. A. Gunn, Balliol College, has been appointed to become Nuffield professor of therapeutics, while holding the directorship of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, on his ceasing to be professor of pharmacology.

Dr. J. C. Moir has been appointed Nuffield professor of obstetrics and gynaecology as from October 1 next. This professorship carries with it a fellowship at Oriol College.

C. G. T. Morison, Christ Church, has been re-elected University reader in soil science for seven years from October 1 next.

The following have been elected or re-elected to University lectureships in their subjects, for five or three years, as from October 1 next: J. H. C. Whitehead (mathematics), R. L. Hall (economic science), Dr. D. A. Jackson (spectroscopy) and G. D. Amery (history and economics of agriculture).

Science News a Century Ago

The Royal Geographical Society

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society held on May 8, 1837, William Richard Hamilton (1777–1859) the president-elect being in the chair, the Royal Premium for 1836 was presented to Captain R. FitzRoy for his work done while in command of H.M.S. *Beagle*. Addressing FitzRoy, Hamilton said, "one of the first of your discoveries laid open to the commercial and scientific world the harbour of Bahia Blanco, the only one upon the eastern coast of South America, in which a considerable number of line-of-battleships can be at anchor. On the same coast, in the face of numerous difficulties, you explored for the first time, the deep and rapid river of Santa Cruz. You surveyed, at your sole expense, the Falkland Islands. On the western side of South America, you have for the first time laid down the archipelago of islands lying to the south of Chiloe, called Chonos, in lat. 45° S. When your term of service was on the point of expiring, and you were about to proceed on your way home, your zeal for science prompted you to engage a vessel, at your own expense, for completing the survey of the coast of Peru as far as Guayaquil. In circumnavigating the globe, you have for the first time, carried a complete chronometric chain of measurement, by twenty-two chronometers—many of them your own property—from east to west around the globe. You have also enabled Mr. Darwin, the well-known naturalist, to add greatly to our knowledge of the history of those regions."

Darwin was present at the meeting, and in his reply to the chairman's speech, FitzRoy remarked: "Mr. Charles Darwin embarked in the *Beagle* in 1831 as a zealous volunteer in the cause of science. At his own expense, he passed five years aboard the *Beagle*, on travelling in those countries she visited. When it is considered that Mr. Darwin never ceased to be a martyr to sea-sickness, his perseverance may be appreciated. Of the value of his labours, I understand you have been made partially aware; and I believe I am quite correct in saying, that the best judges estimate those labours very highly."

Bulwer's Petrel in Britain

It was on May 8, 1837, that the first specimen of Bulwer's petrel (*Procellaria bulweri*, Jardine) in the British Isles was picked up dead, on the banks of the River Ure near Tanfield, Yorkshire. Gould describes the record in Part 22 of his "Birds of Europe" and Yarrell on p. 664 of vol. 3 of his "History of British Birds". The specimen is preserved in the York Museum. An inhabitant of the temperate North Pacific and North Atlantic, plentiful off Madeira, the Canaries, Salvages, Sandwich Isles and Japanese isles, this petrel is sooty black all over, with a pointed tail, and reaches 10½ inches in length. There are traces of grey on the throat and head, and brown margins to some of the wing feathers, the irides are deep brown, bill black, legs black and grey, male and female being similarly coloured. The call of the bird, heard at its nesting haunts at night, is a pleasant one, consisting of four high notes and a lower, prolonged one, in marked contrast to the harsh calls of the great shearwaters which also nest on their islands.