

Queen Mary College

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE celebrated this week the anniversary of the presentation of a Royal Charter to the College by Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Patron of the College, on December 12, 1934. The proceedings culminated in a reception on the evening of December 16, when the principal of the College, Prof. G. M. Bennett, Prof. J. T. MacGregor-Morris, Miss Florence Rich, and Sir John Russell are being admitted as fellows of the College. The College, which owes so much to the insight and wise guidance of its late principal, Mr. J. L. S. Hatton, and its present principal, Sir Frederick Maurice, occupies a unique position in the scheme of the University of London. Situated a mile and a half east of Aldgate Pump, it provides a university course of training for students drawn in the main from the population of Essex and Middlesex, but not from these regions only, for within its walls are to be found students coming from all parts of Great Britain and of the Empire.

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE, which has grown steadily from a small beginning as the Technical School of the People's Palace, has for some time past realized the urgent need for the extension of the housing of its Faculties of Art, Science and Engineering and for the provision of hostels and athletic grounds for its students. It has courageously embarked on a building scheme, under which the Engineering Departments, the Chemistry Department, the Aeronautical Department, and the Botany, Geology and Geography Departments have been extended or reconstructed; new Zoology and Arts Departments have been built, and a high-voltage laboratory, the first of its kind in London, has been equipped. The cost of this completed portion of the programme is some £118,000, of which £113,000 has been received or promised. A great deal, however, remains to be accomplished, and the College is now considering the building of a college hall, dining hall and kitchens, the reconstruction of the Students' Union rooms, the rehousing of the administrative offices and an urgently needed extension of the Physics Department. The cost of this last part of the building scheme is estimated at £125,000, and all interested in college and university life in London will wish the Governors of Queen Mary College an early success in their attempt to provide a college which shall, in its material equipment, be worthy of the traditions which it has established in its thirty-one years of life as a School of the University of London.

Birkbeck College

BIRKBECK COLLEGE, University of London, celebrated on December 7 its 115th anniversary with an eloquent oration on "Ends and Means" by Sir Richard Livingstone, president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The Foundation oration dealt with the underlying principles of morality in individual and social intercourse in contrast with the present unrest in world affairs. In his report, which was followed by the presentation of graduates, Dr. George Senter, principal of the College, mentioned various details about

its progress, the plan for moving it to the Bloomsbury site, the distinctions gained by the staff, and the activities of the various College societies. During the last academic year, there were 971 students registered, 122 having graduated. Statistics show that 430 students were teachers, 176 clerks and 132 chemists. Considerable progress was made during the year with the plans for new College buildings on the Bloomsbury site. Towards the end of the session, instructions were given for the clearance of the site, and it was expected that the detailed plans would be submitted soon to the Governors. A notable appointment to the academic staff was that of Prof. J. D. Bernal who succeeded Prof. P. M. S. Blackett in the chair of physics. Prof. Bernal's work is mainly concerned with structural investigations by means of X-rays, and is of great interest to chemists and biologists as well as to physicists.

German Native Policy and Racial Theory

DISCUSSION of German colonial claims will be clarified by a statement of the policy which would be applied in native administration under racial doctrine, appearing in an official publication of the National Socialist Party—"The Colonial Question and Racial Thought" by Dr. Günther Hecht, an expert of the party on racial problems. As might be anticipated, the principle of segregation, it would appear from a summary of the provisions by the Berlin correspondent of *The Times* in the issue of December 12, is to be applied stringently, and any attempt to Europeanize or divorce the native from his culture is abrogated: he will neither be baptized, nor will his equality with Europeans be preached. No native will be allowed to leave the German colonies for Europe as either servant, worker, soldier or student, but on the other hand, coloured people will be allowed their full rights of existence in their own homeland, and no more will be demanded from them than they can achieve. No native will be allowed to become a German citizen, but they will nevertheless possess more rights than have been merely promised to them in other colonies. No European matter will be taught in native schools, lest Europe should be presented to them as the peak of cultural development and they should lose faith in their own powers. Local culture, therefore, will be fostered, but side by side with it there will be an introduction to an understanding of European civilization. In principle, higher schools and universities will be closed to natives. Without entering into extended comment on the principles of this policy, beyond noting a commendable adherence to the development of the native through his own culture, it may be questioned what opportunities will be afforded for development towards that self-determination, however remote it may be and whatever its form, which has been formulated as the end of native administration under mandatory policy.

Systematics in General Biology

THE annual general meeting of the Association for the Study of Systematics in General Biology was held in the rooms of the Linnean Society, Burlington