

University Events

CAMBRIDGE.—G. Manley of Gonville and Caius College has been appointed University demonstrator in geography.

The Board of Management of the Frank Edward Elmore Fund will shortly proceed to the award of two studentships for research in medicine. The studentships are open to male graduates of any University who were born in any country within the British Empire other than Scotland. The students appointed will work in the Department of Medicine of the University of Cambridge under the direction of the regius professor of physic. The commencing salary will be £300 a year, and the appointment will be for two years in the first instance. Further information may be obtained from the regius professor of physic, Department of Medicine.

The following have been elected to fellowships at St. John's College: Dr. W. A. Deer, Strathcona research student (1934), Royal Commission for Exhibition of 1851 senior student (1938), formerly at the University of Manchester. F. Hoyle (Emmanuel College), Part I, Mathematical Tripos, Class I (1934), Part II, Mathematical Tripos, Class II (1935), Part III, Mathematical Tripos, honours with distinction (1936), Mayhew Prize (1936), Goldsmiths' senior student (1937), Smith's Prize (1938).

LEEDS.—The Council has received the following donations: £50 from the Education Committee of the National Association of Local Government Officers to assist in the encouragement of the study of public administration; £110 from the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company (Royal Dutch Shell Group) for a scholarship tenable in the Mining Department.

LONDON.—Prof. W. E. Le Gros Clark has been appointed as from October 1 to the University chair of anatomy tenable at University College. He has held University chairs of anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College and at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, and since 1934 he has been professor of anatomy in the University of Oxford.

Dr. Samuel Nevin has been appointed to the University chair of the pathology of mental disease tenable at the Maudsley Hospital. He will take up his duties in September next.

Dr. Patrick D. F. Murray has been appointed, as from October 1, to the University readership in biology tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. He has held a Rockefeller travelling fellowship and a Smithson research fellowship; and since 1937 he has held a teaching post in the Department of Zoology at Bedford College.

The title of reader in economic statistics, with special reference to mathematical economics, in the University has been conferred on Mr. Roy G. D. Allen in respect of the post held by him at the London School of Economics.

The title of professor emeritus of medicine in the University has been conferred on Prof. T. R. Elliott on his retirement from the professorship of medicine and the directorship of the Medical Unit at University College Hospital Medical School.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred on Mr. C. L. Wilson, an internal student, of University College and on Mr. F. G. Young, an internal student, of University College.

Science News a Century Ago

The Royal Geographical Society

THE eighth anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on May 27, 1839. According to the annual report, sixty-three new members had been elected; and the Society consisted of 651 members, and sixty foreign, honorary and corresponding members. The president, in handing a gold medal to Chevalier Bunsen to be sent to the naturalist and traveller Dr. Wilhelm Ruppell (1794–1884) of Frankfurt, said that the medal was awarded in testimony of Dr. Ruppell's services in the advancement of physical geography. Dr. Ruppell had made three journeys into Africa. After the first he had placed himself under the tuition of the learned Baron von Zach. He then returned to Egypt, visited Arabia, the gulf of Akabah (which he was the first to explore geographically), Abyssinia and Kordofan. All the produce of his travels in the department of zoology, which absorbed a large part of the pecuniary means at his disposal, he had generously made over to his native city.

Daniell's Constant Battery

ON May 30, 1839, at a meeting of the Royal Society, the fifth letter of J. F. Daniell to Faraday on voltaic combinations was read. The letter also gave an account of the effects of a large constant battery. The constant battery consisted of seventy cells in a single series, which gave, between charcoal points separated a distance of three-quarters of an inch, a flame of considerable volume, forming a continuous arch, and emitted radiant heat and light of the greatest intensity. The latter, indeed, proved highly injurious to the eyes of the spectators, in which, although they were protected by grey glasses of double thickness, a state of very active inflammation was induced. The arch of the flame between the electrodes was attracted or repelled by the poles of a magnet according as the one or the other pole was held above or below it; and the repulsion was at times so great as to extinguish the flame. When the flame was drawn from the pole of the magnet itself, included in the circuit, it rotated in a beautiful manner. The heating power of the battery was so great as to fuse, with the utmost readiness, a bar of platinum one eighth of an inch square; and the most inflexible metals, such as pure rhodium, iridium, titanium, the native alloy of iridium and osmium, and the native alloy of platinum.

Lyell's "Elements of Geology"

ON June 1, 1839, in its column headed "Our Library Table", the *Athenæum* included this note about Lyell's "Elements". "The author states that the present treatise was originally intended to appear as a supplement to his 'Principles' but that he was subsequently induced to enlarge it, and bring it out in the form of a distinct work. It is an attempt—and we think a very successful one—to put forward in a simple and clear manner, those facts which are indispensable to a knowledge of the science, and to place the student in possession of the data by which geologists of the existing school explain the more palpable and widely spread geological phenomena. The bold and ingenious speculations, so ably developed by Mr. Lyell in his larger work, and to which his present fame is mainly to be attributed, are here, in a great measure, kept out of the field."