knowledge of tropical diseases. A discussion followed.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE University of London Commission Bill has passed the second reading in the British House of Commons without a division.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY has received a bequest of £10,000 for the foundation of a scholarship or prizes.

THE Wawepex Society has given $200 for a scholarship in biology at the Coldspring Laboratory of Biology, to be filled by a graduate student of Columbia University. Mr. F. B. Sumner has received the appointment.

THE chair of botany in the University of Wisconsin, vacant by the removal of Professor Charles R. Barnes to the University of Wisconsin, has been filled by the election of Dr. R. A. Harper, of Lake Forest University.

DR. ALEX. HILL, master of Downing College and an eminent physiologist, has been re-elected Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University for the ensuing academical year.

MR. R. PENDLEBURY and Mr. A. E. H. Love, F.R.S., fellows and lecturers in St. John's College, have been appointed University lecturers in mathematics.

PRINCIPAL CAIRD will on August 1st retire from the principalship of Glasgow University.

MISS GERTRUDE HALLEY has been appointed one of the demonstrators in anatomy in Melbourne University.

M. P.-M. LABATUT has been given charge of the instruction of physics and chemistry in the medical school of Grenoble.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

La Mathematique; philosophie, enseignement. Par C.-A. LAISANT, repetiteur à l'école polytechnique, docteur és sciences. Paris, George Carré et C. Naud. 1898. Pp. 292.

The above work consists of three parts: the philosophy of pure mathematics, the philosophy of applied mathematics, and the teaching of mathematics. The first part is subdivided into the following chapters: Mathematics and its Divisions, Arithmetic and Arithmology, Algebra, Infinitesimal Calculus, Theory of Functions, Geometry, Analytical Geometry, Rational Mechanics. The second part is divided into General Considerations, Application of the Calculus, Application of Geometry, Application of Mechanics, and the third into General View of the Teaching of Mathematics, Teaching of Arithmetic, Teaching of Algebra and the higher Calculus, Teaching of Geometry, Teaching of Analytical Geometry, Teaching of Mechanics, the Hierarchy of Education.

In an introductory chapter M. Laisant sets forth the aim of the book. He says that he does not write for those who are deeply versed in mathematical science, nor those who are ignorant of it, but for a middle class, namely, those who are studying mathematics or have studied it and whose knowledge and interest are kept alive by teaching it or by being engaged in work requiring its application. It may be said, however, that whatever is written on the philosophy of mathematics by so eminent a master of geometric algebra and distinguished investigator of the hyperbolic functions cannot fail to be of interest to the professional mathematician; and even the mere seeker after culture will find in this volume many things to arouse his interest in the most perfect of all the sciences.

In traversing the domain above described the author discusses many questions of scientific and educational interest; in this notice there is only room to mention a few. One of the first points he makes is that it is not correct to speak of the mathematical sciences, as they all aid one another, give mutual support, and in certain parts blend together; there is but one vast science, which no one can flatter himself to master completely, for its conquests are infinite in nature.

M. Laisant does not pretend to be a professional philosopher, but he has read the works of Leibnitz, Descartes, Pascal, D'Alembert, Diderot, Condorcet, Comte, each of whom was a philosopher, and likewise left a brilliant record in mathematical science; in this volume we have the digested results of his reading and reflection. Work of the character described is the most valuable kind of philosophy, and very rare in these times, for the saying of Leibnitz