

kola trees, which should be a source of future wealth to the colony, as the kola nut seems to be almost an essential stimulant to every Hausa, and it is at present imported at great expense from Ashanti, where it is indigenous. The members of the expedition suffered from the usual malarial fever, but fortunately not to such an extent as to incapacitate them from much useful scientific work.

A RECENT issue of the *British Medical Journal* gives an abstract of the report of the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory for the year ending March 31, 1899, which has been issued as a Parliamentary paper. The number of samples of butter examined was 1,083, and only two were reported adulterated, as against 25 last year and 46 the year before. Experiments made at Wye and in the laboratory are held to have proved beyond doubt that the characteristic constituent of cotton-seed oil passes into the milk of cows fed upon cotton cake. Certain samples of butter examined during the year gave reactions for cotton-seed oil, but the amount indicated was held to be not more than might be due to feeding on cotton cake. The Danish and Scandinavian butters examined were entirely free from boric preservatives, but those from France, Holland, Australia and New Zealand contained such preservatives. The use of coloring matters derived from coal tar seems to be most prevalent in the United States, but is also met with in samples from Holland. The majority of the margarines contained cotton-seed oil, boric preservative and aniline coloring matters. Samples of cream imported from Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden were examined at the instance of the Local Government Board, and all found to be genuine. The laboratory also made a number of analyses in connection with the Home Office inquiries into the use of lead in pottery manufacture, and phosphorus in the manufacture of lucifer matches. Among the samples of food substances from various canteens examined for the War Department many proved to be of low quality. A number of medicinal preparations were examined for the Army Medical Department, and in several instances were found to be markedly inferior to the standards of the *British Pharmacopœia*.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE late Madame Halfon has bequeathed £1,600 to University College, London, for the foundation of two prizes.

A DINNER will be held at the end of November in aid of the fund to provide new laboratories for King's College, London. The Hon. A. J. Balfour will preside.

THE chair of botany at Yale University held by the late Daniel C. Eaton is hereafter to be known as the Eaton professorship of botany. The chair was endowed for Professor Eaton, but we believe not largely, and it is to be hoped that the corporation will appropriate the funds necessary to secure the services of a representative botanist.

PROFESSOR W. M. WHEELER, assistant professor of embryology in the University of Chicago, has been elected professor of zoology in the University of Texas. His address after September 15th will be Austin, Texas.

PROFESSOR J. L. KELLOGG, of Olivet College, Michigan, has been elected assistant professor of biology at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

ARTHUR ST. C. DUSTAN, associate professor of physics, University of Kansas, has been elected professor of physics and electrical engineering in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala., in the place of Professor A. F. McKissick, who has resigned.

WALTER W. DAVIS, of the Psychological Laboratory of Yale University, has been appointed professor of physical culture and Director of the Gymnasium at Grinnell College, Iowa.

DR. RICHARD STOERNER, docent in chemistry in the University at Rostock, has been promoted to an assistant professorship.

THE following have qualified as docents in German universities: Dr. Behn, in physics in the University of Berlin; Dr. Neumann, in applied mathematics, and Dr. Grassmann, in mathematics in the University at Halle; Dr. V. Schmeidler, in physics, and Dr. Figdor, in plant anatomy and physiology, in the University of Vienna.