

Physicians of London, and by Sir Isaac Pennington, John Haviland and Sir George Paget, who were Regius professors of physic in the university. William Heberden was also a Linacre lecturer, so were Henry Paman and Henry Briggs, who were also Gresham professors. The last named was the inventor of the decimal system of logarithms, and was not a medical man. Perhaps the most distinguished members of the laity who have held the lectureship were Matthew Prior, the poet and diplomatist, and Edward Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester. From 1894 until his appointment to be principal of Glasgow University the lectureship was held by Dr. Donald MacAlister. The first lecture under the new scheme was given on May 6, by Dr. Osler, regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford, who took for his subject Thomas Linacre, his life and work.

THE total cost of the buildings erected in the principal cities of the United States in 1907 was \$661,076,286, according to Mr. Jefferson Middleton, of the U. S. Geological Survey, who has collected statistics on this subject in connection with his work on the clay-working industries. Compared with the cost of buildings in the same cities in 1906, these figures show a net decrease of \$17,634,683, or 2.60 per cent.; they are, however, 2.55 per cent. in excess of the figures for 1905 and 40.86 per cent. greater than in 1904. Although the total cost of buildings in the 49 cities reporting was decreased, the number of permits increased from 181,174 in 1906 to 184,055 in 1907. In some cities more than one building was erected under one permit, but as a rule a permit was issued for each building. The city showing the greatest decrease in cost of buildings is New York, the value of whose operations fell off \$41,591,982, or 26.84 per cent. St. Louis showed the next largest decrease—\$8,045,526, or 26.87 per cent.; next is Chicago, which reported a falling off of \$5,616,245, or 8.68 per cent. Philadelphia, Boston and Brooklyn also showed decreases in 1907, though Brooklyn nearly held its own, the decrease being only \$149,304, or 0.21 per cent., a better showing than that of any other

of the very large cities in which normal conditions prevailed. In Baltimore, where large gains had been reported in 1904 and 1905 as the result of the fire in 1904, the cost of building operations also decreased, though it was more than twice as great in 1907 as in 1903, when the cost was but \$3,327,225. It is probable that most of the decreases were due to the financial disturbance during the latter part of the year, although the decrease in Los Angeles, which has shown remarkable increases in past years, appears to have been due rather to scarcity and high cost of material than to the business depression. Twenty-five cities reported an increase in cost of building operations. In San Francisco, owing to the local conditions following the fire, the increase was \$56,574,844, the total amount being nearly 162 per cent. in excess of the cost for 1906. The total number of permits issued in 1907 for buildings in San Francisco was 12,126, and the cost of the buildings was \$91,502,240. In 1905, the year prior to the fire, its building operations cost \$18,268,753. In Cambridge, Mass., which, with the exception of San Francisco, showed the largest proportionate gain, the erection of several large mercantile buildings swelled the total. Cleveland's building industries seem not to have been affected by the financial depression, showing an increase of \$2,915,433, or 22.47 per cent., over the figures for 1906. The reports for Milwaukee show an increase of more than a million dollars, due to the increase in the number of fire-proof or fire-resisting buildings erected.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A RESEARCH laboratory of applied chemistry will be established shortly at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with Professor W. A. Walker in charge.

THE Hong Kong correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* writes that the governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, convened a meeting on March 18, to consider the possibility of establishing a university in Hong Kong. He announced that Mr. Mody, a Parsee, had placed £15,000 at his disposal for that purpose. The governor was willing to recommend the gov-

ernment to provide a site, and personally was anxious to see the project take shape. He believed that a university at Hong Kong would attract a large number of the wealthy Chinese students who now went to Japan, America and Europe, and would increase the prestige and influence of Great Britain throughout the Chinese empire. To provide an adequate endowment for even the modest beginning proposed, a sum of about £100,000 would be required.

REPRESENTATIVES of the faculties of ten New England colleges met in Providence on May 6 to discuss problems of university administration. The institutions represented are Amherst, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, Harvard, Tufts, Maine, Wesleyan, Williams, Yale and Brown, and the delegates in most cases were the deans.

THE George Washington University has established a separate department of psychology, with Williston S. Hough, Ph.M., Shepherd Ivory Franz, Ph.D., and William Carl Ruediger, Ph.D., as teaching staff. There are to be two psychological laboratories, one for elementary class instruction and experiments bearing on educational problems, and one for the advanced research work of graduate students.

SEVERAL changes will occur in the science departments at Wesleyan University next year. In the biological department, Mr. David Day Whitney, A.B. (Wesleyan 1904) and candidate for Ph.D. (Columbia) this June, will succeed Mr. Budington as instructor in biology. Two new courses will be added in connection with the laboratory courses now offered in general biological laboratory work, one a course in histology for prospective students of medicine, the other an extensive botany course, designed for those intending either to study forestry or to teach botany. The chemical department will be considerably enlarged and improved, while courses in physical chemistry and electro-chemistry will be introduced. J. W. Turrentine, a graduate of the University of North Carolina (1902), and candidate for Ph.D. at Cornell, where he has been pursuing graduate study for three years, will be instructor in chemistry, to fill the

place of Mr. Hale, who intends to study for his degree in Cornell.

At the University of Wisconsin H. A. Parker has been appointed instructor in topographical engineering. The regents also made a number of promotions in the faculty. A. N. Winchell, now assistant professor, becomes professor of mineralogy and petrology, and Associate Professor M. C. Beebe has been appointed professor of electrical engineering. H. J. Thorkelson has been made associate professor in the department of steam engineering. Instructors who have been appointed to assistant professorships are: L. R. Ingersoll, physics; J. G. Fuller, animal husbandry; W. L. Koelker, chemistry; W. G. Marquette, botany; B. M. Allen, anatomy; A. V. Millar, mechanical drawing; R. MacA. Keown, machine design; J. W. Watson, electrical engineering; O. P. Watts, chemical engineering. Chauncey Juday was made lecturer in zoology. New instructors are as follows: J. H. Matthews, physical chemistry; W. E. Grove, pharmacology; W. H. Brown, pathology; Walter J. Meek, physiology; R. C. Disque, electrical engineering. R. T. Craig has been appointed instructor in mathematics in the university extension division. Assistants who are promoted to instructorships are: F. K. Brainard, physics; W. J. Mead, geology; P. Skadky, mechanical practise, and E. E. Parker, applied engineering. The new assistants include: A. R. Koch, pharmacy; M. C. Otto, philosophy; F. W. Williams, geology; L. F. Ausburger, analytical chemistry; David Klein, chemistry; H. L. Walster, soils, and R. L. Marshall, soils.

DR. S. O. MAST, Johnston research scholar at Johns Hopkins University and professor of biological science at Hope College, has been appointed associate professor of biology at the Woman's College of Baltimore.

VICTOR E. EMIL, Ph.D., Austin teaching fellow in histology and embryology in the Harvard Medical School has been appointed instructor in biology at the George Washington University.

MR. CHAS. T. VORHIES, of the University of Wisconsin, has been elected to the chair of biology in the University of Utah.