

permission or a special permit for scientific purposes, is one of the chief aims of the League, and this has already been adopted by fifty-two counties and sub-counties in England and Wales. From 1925, the whole of the expenses were met by the founder.

Mathematical Films

IN connexion with the note in NATURE of December 31, p. 1151, Mr. Stefan Bergmann writes to point out how films might be used to illustrate the theory of functions of two complex variables. Each complex variable may be represented as a point in a plane, requiring two dimensions, so two such variables require four dimensions. We may obtain these by taking three dimensions in space and one in time, in fact by making a film showing a solid body the dimensions of which vary with the time. Full details were given by Mr. Bergmann some years ago (*J. deutsch. Mathematiker Verein.*, 42, 238; 1932-33), but so far as we are aware no such films appear in current lists of those available for sale or hire.

Nutrition and Local Government

THE Children's Minimum Council, 72 Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1, has issued a pamphlet entitled "Nutrition and Local Government—What Your Local Authority Can Do" (by Marjorie E. Green. Price 3d.). Although changes in legislation are still needed to ensure that no child shall suffer from malnutrition through the poverty of its parents, there are two Acts of Parliament, the Public Health Act of 1936 and the Education Act of 1921, which enable local authorities to provide supplementary nourishment, and this pamphlet sets out clearly what each local authority can do in its own area to solve this problem of child malnutrition.

Rheumatism Research in Naval Training Centres

THE Empire Rheumatism Council, in co-operation with the Admiralty, has set up a research foundation to investigate rheumatic disease in the training establishments of the Royal Navy. The research advisory committee has appointed a sub-committee consisting of Lord Horder, Sir William Willcox, Prof. George Hadfield, Dr. Mervyn Gordon and Dr. W. S. C. Copeman to supervise the work. Dr. C. A. Green, of the Bacteriological Department of the University of Edinburgh, is to take direct charge of the Foundation, and the Sir Halley Stewart Trust has appointed him to a research fellowship for three years for this task.

National Nutrition Conference

THE British Medical Association has decided to call a national conference on nutrition in its wider aspects—that is, in relation to national, including agricultural, policy—which will last three days, the dates provisionally selected being April 27-29. In addition to medical men, the conference will be representative of agricultural producers, home and over-seas, as well as of industry and education. The conference will take as its starting-point the recognized food needs of the individual, if health is

to be maintained. Questions to be considered include: How far are these needs satisfied in Great Britain at the present time? What increases are required in the production of particular foodstuffs, either at home or in the Empire, to fill the gap? How can the necessary increases in consumption be best secured—through a system of family allowances; education, including propaganda; or otherwise?

Micro-Methods for Medical Practitioners and Biologists

IN conjunction with the Institute of Scientific Microscopy and Applied Optics of the University of Jena, Messrs. Carl Zeiss, Jena, are organizing a course of microscopy, microphotography, micro-cinematography, micromanipulation, luminescence microscopy, also absolute colorimetry, interferometry and spectral analysis, with particular reference to their significance in medicine and biology, to be held in Jena during March 27-April 1. During the lectures provided in the programme there will be talks by eminent authorities on optical methods. Of particular note is the fact that members will be offered the opportunity of widening their experience in the use of the apparatus and above all of trying out in practice the methods referred to during the lectures. Demonstrators and specialists will be available to answer all questions arising during the practical work in the laboratory. Further particulars and detailed programme can be obtained, in England, from Carl Zeiss (London), Ltd., Mortimer House, Mortimer Street, W.1.

New Comet and Super-nova

A TELEGRAM from Copenhagen reports that Peltier, at Delphos, Ohio, discovered a comet on Jan. 20.000 U.T., its approximate position being R.A. 21^h 20.0^m, Dec. + 28° 0', and its magnitude 8. A later telegram states that Beljawsky saw the comet several hours earlier and found that its daily motion was +5^m 48^s in R.A. and -0° 13' in declination. He gave the magnitude as 8 and estimated the tail to be about 1°. Other observations must have been available to Karstedt, who has computed the orbit and ephemeris given below; as the observations are very rough, the orbit cannot be regarded as more than provisional.

| | | |
|----------|---------------------|----------|
| <i>T</i> | 1938 Dec. 30.0 U.T. | |
| <i>ω</i> | 126° | } 1939.0 |
| <i>Ω</i> | 305 | |
| <i>i</i> | 37 | |
| <i>q</i> | 0.770 | |

Ephemeris

| | R.A. | | N. Dec. |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---|---------|
| Jan. 21.0 | 21 ^h 28 ^m | = | 27° 30' |
| 25.0 | 22 29 | | 26 36 |
| 29.0 | 0 39 | | 18 42 |

Zwicky reports a super-nova, mag. 17 on January 14, 12.5 on January 20. It is 0.6' north-west of the nucleus of N.G.C. 4636.

The Night Sky in February

THE moon is full on February 4 at 7.9^h U.T. and new on February 19 at 8.5^h. Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur as follows: with Mars on February 12 at 13^h; with Venus on February 15 at 3^h; with