

is demonstrated by the fact that an African species of malaria-carrying mosquito, *Anopheles gambiae*, has become established in South America. According to Science Service, this mosquito has been found at Natal, Brazil, and in localities two hundred miles west and north of Natal, and has already caused severe outbreaks of malaria. This mosquito was probably introduced as a stowaway on one of the aeroplanes of the French airline between Dakar in West Africa and Natal in Brazil.

Cadmium Pigments

WE have received from Messrs. Johnson and Matthey, Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1, a copy of a booklet on cadmium pigments. These have cadmium sulphide as a basis, and the sulphide itself can be obtained in any colour from pale yellow to orange. Redder shades are obtained by the incorporation of selenium, so that it is possible to get a complete range from pale yellow, through orange and red, to deep maroon. Cadmium lithopones are also available. The properties of the pigments are described.

High Vacuum Distillation

THE *Transactions of the Society of Chemical Industry* (58, No. 2; 1939) contain several papers presented last November to a meeting of the Chemical Engineering Group which dealt with the industrial applications of high-vacuum distillation. Pressures of the order of 10^{-6} mm. are concerned and the technical apparatus is described with drawings. One important application of the technique is to the concentration of vitamins from oils.

Earthquake in Solomon Islands of April 30, 1939

FURTHER news has come to hand concerning this shock. According to the Bureau central seismologique de Strasbourg, from reports received from thirty seismological stations the epicentre of the most severe shock was at 7.5° S., 159.6° E., depth of focus probably 100 km. and starting time 2h. 55m. 35s. G.C.T. According to reports from the islands, the shock and after-shocks lasted for several days. One of the islands most seriously affected was Guadalcanar, where a number of buildings were wrecked, and where a wave following the shock swamped a number of native villages. On Ysabel Island houses were damaged, and in the Cape Marsh district of the Russell Islands wharves and houses were wrecked. In the island of Savo, surface faults were visible, but there was no loss of life. Altogether nine children and three adults of the indigenous population were drowned.

Earthquake near Japan

USING reports from the seismological stations at Honolulu, Victoria, Tucson, Manila, Huancayo, Zikawei, Burlington and Philadelphia, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has made a preliminary determination of the epicentre and initial time as follows: lat. 37° N., long. 142° E., November 30, 2 h. 29 m. 52 s. G.C.T. The epicentre is under the ocean bed to the north-east of the coast of the

main island of Japan, and is the same as that for the earthquake of November 22, 1h. 14m. G.C.T. No effects of this shock have been reported from land.

Commonwealth Fund Fellowships Awards

THE Committee of Award of the Commonwealth Fund fellowships has made the following appointments, among others, to fellowships tenable by British graduates in American universities for the two years beginning September 1939: C. A. U. Craven, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, to Harvard University, in geology; Dr. B. M. Crowther, Clare College, Cambridge, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in physics; G. M. Henderson, University of Edinburgh, to Princeton University, in chemistry; P. B. Hunt, Christ Church, Oxford, to Columbia University, in economics; G. O. Jones, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in engineering; J. P. Keane, University of Wales and University of London, to the University of Michigan, in economics; Edward Lee, University of Manchester, and University of Cambridge, to the University of Michigan, in physics; Nicholas Miller, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, to the University of California, in engineering; D. G. Northcott, St. John's College, Cambridge, to Princeton University, in mathematics; G. W. Parnell, University of Bristol, to the University of California, in zoology; J. H. Read, University of St. Andrews, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to Columbia University and the American Film Center, New York, in cinematography; J. A. Scott, Trinity College, Oxford, to the University of Pennsylvania, in economics; Dr. E. V. Watson, University of Edinburgh, to Harvard University, in botany; E. R. Winton, University of St. Andrews, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in engineering; N. A. Wylie, Oriel College, Oxford, to Yale University, in forestry.

THE following have been appointed to fellowships tenable by candidates from the British Dominions: H. C. Corben, University of Melbourne, and Trinity College, Cambridge, to the University of California, in physics; Dr. A. P. Guinand, University of Adelaide, New College, Oxford, to Princeton University, in mathematics. The following have been appointed to fellowships tenable by candidates holding appointments in Government service overseas: H. L. Hume, University of New Zealand, of the Public Works Department, Government of New Zealand, to the University of California, in engineering; M. R. Jacobs, University of Adelaide, and St. Catherine's Society, Oxford, of the Department of the Interior, Government of Australia, to Yale University, in forestry; C. S. Kelly, Balliol College, Oxford, of the Indian Civil Service, Government of Burma, to Yale University, in anthropology; S. L. Macindoe, University of Sydney, of the Department of Agriculture, Government of New South Wales, to the University of Minnesota, in agriculture. The following have been appointed to fellowships tenable

by candidates holding appointments in the Home Civil Service: J. G. M. Allcock, Jesus College, Cambridge, of the Board of Education; C. H. W. Murphy, Selwyn College, Cambridge, of the Unemployment Assistance Board; J. B. Williams, McGill University, and University of Cambridge, of the Colonial Office.

The Night Sky in June

THE short nights round about the summer solstice on June 22 are less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours in length according to the sun's setting and rising in the latitude of London, and a little more than 3 hours if nautical twilight be reckoned. The moon is full on June 2 and new on June 17. A notable occultation occurring on June 25 is that of the first magnitude star Spica (α Virginis) when the moon is 8.2 days old. At Greenwich the disappearance takes place at 16h. 12.6m. at position angle 142° from the north point and the reappearance at 17h. 14.0m. at 265° . At Edinburgh, the corresponding times and position angles are 16h. 11.3m. (133°) and 17h. 14.5m. (272°). Lunar conjunctions with the planets take place as follows: on June 6 with Mars, on June 11 with Jupiter, on June 13 with Saturn, on June 15 with Venus. In the latter part of the month, Mercury may be seen in the evening twilight, low down in the direction north of west. Venus rises in the dawn, preceded by Saturn some two hours earlier. Mars is growing brighter (-1.2 m. to -2.0 m.) and rises before midnight. Jupiter, also increasing in brightness (-1.8 m. to -2.0 m.), rises after midnight. There are close groupings of the four inner satellites about Jupiter at $2\frac{1}{2}$ h. on June 5, 22 and 30. On June 17 at the same hour only two of the satellites (3rd and 4th) are visible, the first two being in transit. At the beginning of June the faint comet Pons-Winnecke is near β Boötis and by mid-June near β Coronæ Borealis. Comet Jurlof-Ackmarof-Hassel is being lost in the sunset. On June 1 it will be about 5° north of γ Geminorum, and by June 30 about midway between Procyon (α Canis Minoris) and γ Geminorum. In mid-June at 22h., Arcturus has already southed; Antares, low down in the south, is approaching meridian passage; Vega is 3 hours before the meridian. The small beautiful constellation Corona Borealis is on the meridian. At midnight, 24h. U.T. (all times being thus expressed: add 1h. to convert to Summer Time), the star γ Draconis passes within $1\frac{1}{4}'$ of the zenith at Greenwich. Observation of this star in 1725-26, for any sign of annual parallax, led to the discoveries by Bradley of the aberration of light and, later, of the nutation of the earth's axis.

Announcements

PROF. EMMANUEL TEODORESCO, of the University of Bucharest, has been elected *correspondant* of the Section of Botany of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

THE two lectures which were to have been delivered by Dr. A. Hrdlička at University College, London, in April but which were postponed, will be delivered on May 31 and June 1 at 5 p.m. The subject of the first lecture will be "The Present Status of our Views

on Human Evolution", and that of the second "The Racial Fallacies and Realities of European Peoples". The lectures are open to the public.

THE Gresham lectures on astronomy will be delivered on May 30, 31, June 1 and 2 at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C.2, at 6 p.m. by Mr. Arthur R. Hinks. The subject of the course is "Recent Discoveries of Special Interest". The lectures are open to the public.

AT the anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London held on May 24, the following officers were elected for the year 1939-40: *President*, Dr. John Ramsbottom; *Treasurer*, Mr. Francis Druce; *Secretaries*, Mr. Isaac H. Burkill (botany) and Dr. Malcolm A. Smith (zoology); *New Members of Council*, Prof. T. M. Harris, Mr. H. R. Hewer, Prof. T. G. B. Osborn, Mr. H. W. Parker and Dr. Malcolm A. Smith.

AT the annual general meeting of the Institute of Physics held on May 17, the following were elected to take office on October 1, 1939: *President*, Prof. W. L. Bragg; *Vice-President*, Prof. A. Ferguson; *Honorary Treasurer*, Major C. E. S. Phillips; *Honorary Secretary*, Prof. J. A. Crowther; *New Members of the Board*, Dr. H. Lowery and Mr. R. S. Whipple; and Mr. J. H. Awbery (appointed by the Physical Society).

THE Medical Research Council has appointed the following committee to advise and assist in promoting investigations into problems of preventive medicine: Sir W. Wilson Jameson, dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (chairman); J. H. Brincker; J. Fenton; J. Ferguson; W. M. Frazer; L. H. R. Harries; A. Bradford Hill; W. D. Hood; J. R. Hutchinson; R. A. McCance; A. S. M. MacGregor; R. H. Parry; Prof. R. M. F. Picken; W. M. Scott; J. C. Spence; Prof. W. W. C. Topley; D. K. M. Chalmers, of the National Institute for Medical Research (secretary).

THE thirtieth annual Conference of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions will be held at Southport during May 27-30, under the presidency of Dr. E. A. Seeley of the Municipal College, Bournemouth. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary at 29 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

UNDER the auspices of the French Zoological Society, the thirteenth International Congress of Zoology will be held in Paris in July 1940, the actual date not having so far been fixed. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary-General, Société Zoologique de France, Institut Océanographique, 195 rue St.-Jacques, Paris, V^o.

THE bicentenary of the foundation of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Sweden will be celebrated on September 23-25.

ERRATUM. In NATURE of May 20, p. 844, column 1, under "Prominences through Colour Filters" and under "Movements of Prominences", "for $H\lambda$ " read " $H\alpha$ ".