

been engaged, among other activities, as consulting metallurgist to the Air Ministry, the Association of Drop Forgers and Stampers, and various motor firms in the Birmingham district. In addition, he has written extensively on metallurgical subjects. The creation of the chair has been welcomed by many leading industrialists.

#### Chemistry at University College, Leicester: Prof. L. Hunter

As a consequence of the recognition of University College, Leicester, by the University Grants Committee, the College Council is proceeding to strengthen the teaching staff by the appointment of professors and additional lecturers. Among a number of appointments is that of Dr. L. Hunter to the chair of chemistry. That chemistry should be chosen for one of the first professorships to be established at Leicester is a tribute to Dr. L. Hunter's work as head of the Chemistry Department. Appointed in 1925 to found the Department, Dr. Hunter devoted his first years in Leicester to establishing and consolidating it. Even during those difficult years, and working under a heavy burden of teaching, he never lost sight of the value and importance of research work in any virile teaching department. In translating this ideal into a reality, Dr. Hunter met many difficulties, not the least being the lack of post-graduate scholarships in so young a college. Surmounting these in many novel ways, Dr. Hunter succeeded in establishing a vigorous and steadily growing research school which consisted, immediately prior to the War, of some ten post-graduate research workers. In this work he was loyally supported by his first assistant, Dr. A. Hickling, who is now lecturer in electrochemistry in the University of Liverpool. Even during the difficult years of war, Dr. Hunter's department maintained a steady though reduced output of original work. Dr. Hunter and his co-workers have made important contributions to the chemistry of the hydrogen bond, particularly as it concerns molecular association and tautomerism, and to the chemistry of chelate metallic derivatives of organic compounds. Coming to Leicester from the University College of North Wales, Bangor, he was versed in the traditions of the late Prof. Kennedy Orton's school of chemistry, and his earlier published work concerned the use of chloroamines in the step-wise halogenation of organic compounds.

#### Exhibition of German Aeronautical Developments

THE exhibition of German aeronautical developments, with which the Science Museum, South Kensington, is re-opened, is the result of the great interest taken in a much larger one held at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, during the autumn of 1945. This was confined to invited guests, for obvious reasons, and although these invitations were very widely distributed it was felt that there was still a number of students of aeronautics, in its various aspects, who could profit by it. Limitation of space has necessitated reducing the exhibits, especially the complete aircraft, but as wide a choice in types as possible has been made. Many of the exhibits are sectioned and shown in the 'exploded' form, liberally supplied with explanatory show cards. There are a few exhibits of British work by way of comparison, and an excellent display of photographs, arranged comparatively, German and British.

The aircraft range from gyro-controlled kites, pilotless aircraft, rockets, to the small fighter aircraft.

The engine section has various types of piston engines, and a comprehensive display of gas turbines and jet propulsion units in several forms. Instruments and general equipment occupy some of the galleries, and there is a special display of aircraft armament. The general layout of the exhibition is well thought out, and it should be of great help to the student of aeronautics, who has necessarily not had the opportunity of keeping abreast of the developments in the many different aspects of the science during the war period. A catalogue is available that is not only a guide but also contains much technical information supplementing that given on the show cards. The catalogue invites further inquiries from anyone genuinely interested, which will be answered, so far as further data is available, by the Director, Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants.

#### 'Flavazole', an Effective New Antiseptic

YET another new series of compounds has been added to the growing list of antiseptics. Prof. J. McIntosh and his collaborators (*Lancet* of July 28, p. 97) report upon their trials of 'Flavazole', which is a chemical combination, in equimolecular proportions, of sulphathiazole and proflavine base. This represents a new type of acridine compound, which has been introduced by the research laboratories of Messrs. Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., and it is claimed to be an advance on the mixtures of one part of proflavine and 99 parts of sulphathiazole, widely used in powder form in the Army and in industry for the first-aid treatment of wounds. These new compounds are neutral or slightly alkaline in solution and are less irritant than their acridine components. *In vitro* tests have shown that they "have lost none of the bacteriostatic powers of their components". Comparison of the action of 'Flavazole', sulphathiazole and proflavine upon "all types of organisms likely to be found in wounds" (including the Clostridia which cause gas gangrene) shows that the bacteriostatic power of 'Flavazole' is greater than that of either of its components, especially against Gram-negative bacilli. It has slightly more activity against *Pseudomonas pyocyanea* and *Proteus*.

Clinical trials of 'Flavazole' have shown that it can be safely used in the conjunctival sac and in any infected cavity as a wound antiseptic. Used as a powder composed of 2 per cent 'Flavazole' and 98 per cent of sulphathiazole, it will control mixed infections in wounds. Dusting with this powder led to the disappearance of bacteria within three days. The severe test of treatment in a spinal unit of pressure sores and other wounds which were heavily infected with pyogenic cocci and Gram-negative bacilli showed that 'Flavazole' greatly reduced these infections. 'Flavazole' is not irritating, and is safer than proflavine. The dilution of penicillin with the powder just mentioned provides "a highly-potent antibacterial power with a wide range of activity against all bacteria likely to be found in wound sepsis".

#### Conference on Fundamental Particles and Low Temperature Physics

THE Physical Society, in collaboration with the Cavendish Laboratory, is holding a conference at Cambridge under the combined title of "Fundamental Particles" and "Low Temperature Physics" during July 22-27. One day of the conference is to be devoted to the formal opening of the new Austin Wing of the Cavendish Laboratory, and to lectures

and demonstrations illustrating the work of the Laboratory. Delegates to the conference are being invited from abroad as well as from the British Isles, but considerations of space may limit the total number of visitors. Those who wish to attend should therefore apply to the conference secretary, J. F. Allen, Royal Society Mond Laboratory, Cambridge.

### Radiolocation Convention

A RADIOLOCATION CONVENTION is to be held during March 26-29 at the Institution of Electrical Engineers. At the opening meeting a lecture on the evolution of radiolocation will be given by Sir Robert Watson-Watt. Separate sessions will be devoted to aeriels and wave-guides, propagation, cathode ray tubes, valves, radio measurements and test gear, transmitters and receivers, and circuit techniques. Lectures will be given by Mr. W. A. S. Bateman on precision radar, by Mr. A. W. Ross on shipborne radar, and by Dr. R. A. Smith on radar in navigation.

### Earthquake in Algeria

AT approximately 2.46 a.m. on Tuesday, February 12, an earthquake of considerable intensity affected districts in Northern Algeria, south-west of Constantine. As a result of the shock, considerable damage was done, roads were blocked and communications cut, and it is reported that 276 people were killed and 70 seriously injured. An earthquake occurred in Algeria near Mostaganem on April 1, 1939, and was reported in *Nature* of July 15, 1939. Previous earthquakes were reported in *Nature* of June 3, 1933.

### New Comet

A NEW comet was discovered by Timmers at the Vatican Observatory on Feb. 2d. 0h. 10.9m. U.T. Its magnitude was 9 and its tail was less than  $1^\circ$  in length. Its daily motion was given as R.A. - 1m. 41s., Dec. +  $1^\circ 12'$ . The comet was observed by Dr. W. H. Stevenson at Cambridge on Feb. 10d. 21h. 16.8m. Its position then was R.A. 9h. 30m. 13.3s., Dec. +  $52^\circ 11.5'$ . Sufficient observations are not yet available to compute an orbit.

### T Coronæ Borealis

THIS star, which appeared as a so-called nova in 1866 and then faded to magnitude 9, was observed by Mr. N. F. H. Knight on Feb. 9d. 5h. 30m. to have a magnitude 3. It appears to be fading now, as later observations by Mr. W. M. Lindley, Mr. F. M. Holborn and Dr. W. H. Stevenson give its magnitude as about 3.5. It has also been observed at Yerkes; the velocity of expansion has been estimated to be 4,000 km. per second.

### The Night Sky in March

NEW moon occurs on March 3d. 18h. 01m. U.T. and full moon on March 17d. 19h. 11m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: March 4d. 20h., Mercury  $6^\circ$  N.; March 12d. 11h., Mars  $1^\circ$  N.; March 12d. 14h., Saturn  $2^\circ$  S.; March 20d. 01h., Jupiter  $3^\circ$  S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions occur: March 18d. 08h., Mercury in conjunction with Venus, Mercury  $5^\circ$  N.; March 19d. 01h., Mars in conjunction with Saturn, Mars  $3^\circ$  N. No occultations of stars brighter than mag. 6 occur during the month. Mercury is visible in the western sky in the first portion of the month, setting nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours after the sun. Venus is conspicuous in the western

sky, setting at 18h. 04m., 18h. 49m., and 19h. 41m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. Mars, in the constellation of Gemini, can be seen during the greater part of the night and does not set at the end of the month before 3h. 19m. Jupiter is well placed for observation, rising at 21h., 54m., 20h. 54m., and 19h. 40m. on March 1, 15 and 31 respectively. Saturn is easily recognized close to Mars, a conjunction of the planets taking place on March 19. The planet is stationary on March 20. Spring equinox occurs on March 21d. 06h.

### Announcements

DR. JULIAN S. HUXLEY has been appointed executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

SIR HAROLD SPENCER JONES, Astronomer Royal, has been elected a member of the Athenæum under the provisions of Rule II of the Club, which empowers the annual election by the committee of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature or the arts, or for their public services.

PROF. A. R. TODD, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Cambridge, will deliver the Pedler Lecture of the Chemical Society on March 7, taking as his subject "Synthesis in the Study of Nucleotides".

THE *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* was edited by Ray Lankester (with others at first) for fifty-two years, followed by the late Prof. E. S. Goodrich for twenty-six years. They are now succeeded by two joint editors: Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, reader in invertebrate zoology in the University of Cambridge, and Dr. John R. Baker, reader in cytology in the University of Oxford.

DR. J. F. T. YOUNG, associate professor of physics in the University of Manitoba, has been appointed professor and head of the Department of Physics in the University in succession to emeritus Prof. Frank Allen, founder of the Department (see *Nature*, 154, 456; 1944).

PROF. ANGELO M. DA COSTA LIMA, a distinguished Brazilian entomologist, has arrived in Britain in the course of a tour of the United States and Europe, sponsored by the Government of Brazil, and is visiting British entomological institutions. He has recently published the sixth volume of a work on "The Insects of Brazil".

THE Paul Lewis Laboratories, Inc., of Milwaukee, Wis., have established an annual award of 1,000 dollars and a bronze medal for outstanding research in enzyme chemistry, to be awarded by the American Chemical Society. Candidates for the award must be citizens of the United States less than thirty-six years old and graduates of an American college or university who are non-commercial chemists. The first award will be made in April.

THE English Group of the Nutrition Society has arranged a whole-day conference on "Nutrition in the Colonial Territories", to be held on March 2 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Particulars can be obtained from the honorary secretary of the Society, Dr. Leslie J. Harris, Nutritional Laboratory, Milton Road, Cambridge.