

of trained men, and to meet this need a postgraduate diploma course in conservation will be inaugurated at University College, London, in July. The course will consist of an initial period of field work, extensive and exploratory in nature, followed by two terms of indoor teaching and finishing with a second period of more intensive field work. The course will be run by the Botany Department, in collaboration with Geography and Zoology Departments of University College, with assistance from other departments and a wide range of seminars. The syllabus will include the physical factors of the environment, plant and animal ecology, and a study of different forms of land use and their effect on soils, plants and animals. This fundamental grounding should be applicable to conservation problems in different parts of the world. The Nature Conservancy will award maintenance grants for students to attend the course and will assist in other ways, especially with field work. The diploma will be a useful qualification to those seeking jobs with the Nature Conservancy, or similar organizations in other countries, or with the Colonial Service, or in any other aspect of applied ecology or land use.

#### Summer School in Radiation Protection

A FORTNIGHT'S summer school of health physics (radiation protection) will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, starting on July 4. The course will offer training in radiation protection, at postgraduate-level, for persons who are directly concerned with the subject, and should be of interest to safety officers, medical officers of health, factory inspectors and others concerned with radiation protection. The emphasis will be on practical applications, and training in the measurement of radioactivity will be included. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

#### Royal Society of Tasmania

THE following officers of the Royal Society of Tasmania for the year 1960 have been announced: *President*, His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, the Right Honourable Lord Rowallan; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. D. Martin and Mr. R. M. H. Garvie; *Council Members*, Mr. D. H. Borchart, Dr. C. Craig, Mr. W. F. Ellis, Dr. E. R. Guiler, Mr. L. W. Miller, Mr. K. D. Nicolls, Mr. M. S. R. Sharland and Mr. J. W. C. Wyett; *Hon. Secretary and Librarian*, Dr. W. Bryden; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. G. E. A. Hale; *Hon. Auditor*, Mr. A. M. D. Hewer.

#### The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 11d. 20h. 28m. U.T., and new moon on April 25d. 21h. 45m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: April 1d. 08h., Aldebaran  $0.4^\circ$  S.; April 16d. 19h., Jupiter  $5^\circ$  S.; April 17d. 21h., Saturn  $4^\circ$  S.; April 22d. 01h., Mars  $2^\circ$  S.; April 24d. 01h., Mercury  $1^\circ$  S.; April 28d. 16h., Aldebaran  $0.5^\circ$  S. Mercury, Venus and Mars are too close to the Sun for easy observation. Jupiter is a morning star, rising at 1h. 40m., 0h. 50m. and 23h. 45m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively. It is moving eastwards in Sagittarius until April 20, on which date it is stationary; afterwards it begins to move westwards among the stars. Its stellar magnitude is  $-1.9$  and its distance from the Earth in the middle of the month is 450 million miles. Saturn is also a morning star, moving east-

wards in Sagittarius until April 27, when it is stationary and commences to move westwards among the stars. It rises at 2h. 35m., 1h. 40m. and 0h. 45m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is  $+0.7$  and its distance from the Earth on April 15 is 910 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: April 6d. 01h. 00.8m., 29 Cnc. (D); April 28d. 15h. 44.0m., Aldebaran (D); April 28d. 17h. 03.0m., Aldebaran (R); D and R refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively. The Lyrid meteors are active during April 20-22; the radiant is at R.A. 18h. 04m., Dec.  $+33^\circ$ , and conditions for observation are fairly favourable.

#### Announcements

MR. S. S. KIND has been appointed editor of the newly founded *Journal of the Forensic Science Society*. Communications should be addressed to the Editorial Office, c/o Rossett Holt, Pannal Ash Road, Harrogate, Yorks.

THE Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution has announced recently (Bulletin No. 130) completion of the long awaited index to the volumes entitled "Handbook of South American Indians". The index appears in Vol. 7 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1959).

FOLLOWING an investigation into technical readership by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Heywood and Co., Ltd., are to establish *Electronics Weekly* in September. It will appear as a newspaper and will be directed at manufacturer and user, as well as to management and scientific staff. Further information can be obtained from Heywood and Co., Ltd., Drury House, Russell Street, London, W.C.2.

A SYMPOSIUM on the Matrix will be held by the Bone and Tooth Society at the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Oxford, on March 29. Further information can be obtained from B. Cohen, Royal College of Surgeons, London, W.C.2.

THE spring meeting of the Parasitology Group of the Institute of Biology is to be held at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool 3, during April 6-8. Further information can be obtained from L. P. Joyner, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Central Veterinary Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Surrey.

AN informal discussion by the Colloid and Biophysics Committee of the Faraday Society on Cytoplasmic Particles and their Role in Protein Synthesis will be held in the University of Reading during March 28-29. Further information can be obtained from Prof. J. A. V. Butler, Chester Beatty Research Institute, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3.

THE Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament announces the formation of a Scientists Group, the purpose of which is to advise the Campaign, in the light of available scientific information, on such subjects as fall-out, civil defence, control of tests, effects of nuclear war, relevant aspects of general disarmament, and civilian uses of nuclear energy. The Group is publishing a regular bulletin, of which the first number (4 pp.) has recently appeared; it includes a number of abstracts of recent scientific papers and publications dealing with fall-out and related topics. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 2 Carthusian Street, London, E.C.1.