

addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Pollux on Aug. 5d. 17h., Mercury being 8° S., Venus with Regulus on Aug. 8d. 14h., Venus being 1° N., and Mars with Aldebaran on Aug. 17d. 12h., Mars being 5° N. Mercury is a morning star, and during the second week of the month it is favourably situated for observation. It rises at 3h. 00m. on August 13, about 1h. 40m. before the Sun; the stellar magnitude of Mercury is -0.6 on this date. Venus is too close to the Sun for observation. Mars rises at 23h. 20m., 22h. 50m. and 22h. 20m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It is in Taurus, passing 5° north of Aldebaran on August 17; its stellar magnitude is $+0.7$ and its distance from the Earth in the middle of the month is 120 million miles. Jupiter sets at 0h. 50m., 23h. 45m. and 22h. 45m. on August 1, 15 and 31, respectively. In Ophiuchus, its stellar magnitude is -2.0 and its distance from the Earth on August 15 is 430 million miles. Jupiter is prominent low in the southern sky after sunset, but conditions are not particularly favourable for observation. Saturn is in Sagittarius, east of Jupiter, setting at 2h. 15m., 1h. 10m. and 0h. 05m. on August 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is $+0.5$ and its distance from the Earth on August 15 is 860 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Aug. 8d. 22h. 05.9m., λ Aqr. (*R*); Aug. 15d. 02h. 46.2m., 179 B.Tau. (*R*); Aug. 17d. 2h. 51.6m., 130 Tau. (*R*). *R* denotes reappearance. The Perseid meteors are active during the first half of the month, but conditions are unfavourable for observation.

University News :

California

PROF. GEORGE M. BRIGGS, executive secretary of the Biochemistry and Pharmacology Training Committees, Division of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health, has been appointed chairman of the Department of Nutrition in the College of Agriculture at the University of California at Berkeley. Before joining the National Institutes of Health, Prof. Briggs was an associate professor of poultry nutrition at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, and a professor of poultry nutrition at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Canberra

PROF. L. G. H. HUXLEY has been appointed vice-chancellor in succession to Sir Leslie Melville. Until the end of 1959 Prof. Huxley was Elder professor of physics at Adelaide University.

Rockefeller Institute

Dr. Edward H. Ahrens, jun., and Dr. James G. Hirsch have been promoted to professors and members of the Rockefeller Institute. Dr. Ahrens has been a pioneer in the research on lipids, and was promoted to associate professor at the Institute in 1955. He is also chairman of the Metabolism Study Section of the U.S. Public Health Services. Dr. Hirsch in recent years has been investigating the role of white blood cells in host resistance to infection, and has been concerned with the discovery of phagocytin.

Southampton

THE Council of the University has gratefully received from the Ford Motor Co., Ltd., a contribution of £5,000 to the 1962 Centenary Appeal

Fund. The title of reader has been conferred upon Mr. A. T. Patterson (history) and Dr. W. H. Cockcroft (mathematics). Mr. H. C. Tottenham has been appointed to the readership in structural engineering (Department of Civil Engineering). The following new appointments have been made: H. S. Allen (lecturer in civil engineering), C. H. B. Mee (assistant lecturer in physics).

Announcements

PROF. ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, emeritus professor of organic chemistry in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed a member of the Agricultural Research Council arising from the appointment of Prof. E. G. Cox as secretary to the Council.

DR. T. F. WEST has been appointed editor of *Chemistry and Industry*, the weekly journal of the Society of Chemical Industry. Dr. West is at present editor of *Pyrethrum Post* and the author of the standard work on DDT, of a treatise on chemical control of insects and of a book on synthetic perfumes. He was for some years a director of Drug Houses of Australia, Ltd.

MR. G. D. SPEAKE has been appointed deputy chief of research at Marconi's Research and Development Laboratories, Great Baddow, near Chelmsford, Essex. Mr. Speake joined Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., in 1950, when he was engaged in radar systems research. In 1954 he was appointed chief of the Vacuum Physics Section of the Research Division, and two years later he became chief of the Microwave Physics Section.

THE Research Study Group, which was appointed to study the need for further research into the effects of the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture and food storage, has begun its inquiries. The Group is prepared to receive written evidence of views on the subject of the inquiry from persons or organizations. Written evidence should be addressed to the secretary of the Group, Dr. E. J. Miller, Plant Pathology Laboratory, Hatching Green, Harpenden, Herts.

THE British Society of Rheology will be holding a meeting on "Rheology of Polymers" at Swansea during September 8-10. Further information can be obtained from Dr. M. F. Culpin, 8 The Broadway, Pontypool, South Wales.

THE 1960 International Conference on Nuclear Structure will be held at Kingston, Ontario, Canada, during August 29-September 3. Further information can be obtained from R. L. Graham, Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., Chalk River, Ontario.

THE first International Symposium on "Cori' Ester and Phosphorylated Glucides" will be held at the Museo della Scienza e della Tecnica, Milan, during September 16-18. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the organizing committee of the Symposium, Via Modica 6, Milan.

AN International Symposium on "Data Transmission" is being sponsored by the Benelux Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers in co-operation with Het Nederlands Radiogenootschap and the Institute of Radio Engineers Group on Communications Systems, at the Technische Hogeschool during September 19-21. Further information can be obtained from B. B. Barrow, secretary of the Benelux Section, Institute of Radio Engineers, Postbus 174, Den Haag, Nederland.