

with money for additional research staff. In return, Prof. D. R. Bates, Dr. A. Dalgarno, and several other members of the Applied Mathematics Department will undertake theoretical investigations on some problems of importance to the Advanced Research Projects Agency (on behalf of which the U.S. Navy Office is acting). In anticipation of the signing of the contract the erection of a building for the computer has been authorized and a new lectureship in digital computing has been established. A digital computing unit has been set up with the Applied Mathematics Department, and Dr. Dalgarno has been appointed director of this unit.

#### Birmingham

THE University has accepted the offers of Harry H. Payne, Ltd., and of the Harry Payne Trust to make further payments of £1,250 per annum and £1,000 per annum, respectively, to the Harry Payne Fund for a period of seven years from 1961. The Harry Payne Fund was established in the University in 1954 with gifts of £1,000 per annum each from Harry H. Payne, Ltd., and the Harry Payne Trust for seven years. The Fund is used to support a lectureship in employer/employee relations. The lectureship is held by Dr. N. S. Ross, senior lecturer in employer/employee relations.

The following appointments to lectureships have been made: Dr. G. M. Bennison (geology); Dr. T. S. M. MacLean (electrical engineering); Dr. D. A. Wilkins (botany).

#### London

DR. P. E. POLANI has been appointed to the Prince Philip chair of paediatric research tenable at Guy's Hospital Medical School. The title of reader in hæmatology in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. Sidney Shaw in respect of his post at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and that of reader in bacteriology on Dr. H. I. Winner in respect of his post at the same School.

#### Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Department of Nutrition, Food Science and Technology

THE Food Technology Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is to be enlarged and renamed the Department of Nutrition, Food Science and Technology. Dr. N. S. Scrimshaw, director of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama and regional adviser on nutrition of the Pan American Health Organization (the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization), has been appointed head of this Department.

Dr. Scrimshaw, who is at present an adjunct professor of public health nutrition in Columbia University and a visiting lecturer in the Harvard School of Public Health, will assume his new duties on August 1, 1961. He will continue his association with the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama as a technical director.

#### The Night Sky in November

FULL moon occurs on Nov. 3d. 11h. 58m. U.T., and new moon on Nov. 18d. 23h. 47m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Nov. 5d. 18h., Aldebaran  $0.4^\circ$  S.; Nov. 9d. 00h., Mars  $6^\circ$  N.; Nov. 21d. 15h., Jupiter  $5^\circ$  S.; Nov. 21d. 19h., Venus  $7^\circ$  S.; Nov. 22d. 08h., Saturn  $4^\circ$  S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Jupiter on Nov. 19d. 02h., and

with Saturn on Nov. 28d. 07h., on both occasions Venus being  $2^\circ$  S. Mercury is too close to the Sun at the beginning of the month for normal observation, but it becomes visible as a morning star later in the month; it will be visible low in the south-east before sunrise, rising about two hours before the Sun on November 23. There is a transit of Mercury on November 7, partly visible at Greenwich. At ingress, exterior contact takes place at 14h. 34.4m., and interior contact at 14h. 36.4m. Only the earlier part of the transit will be visible in Great Britain; sunset occurs at 16h. 20m. at Greenwich and Mercury leaves the solar disk at 19h. 13m. The last November transit of Mercury was in 1953, and the next will be in 1973. Telescopic aid will be necessary to observe the transit. Venus is an evening star, setting at 17h. 50m., 18h. 00m. and 18h. 30m. on November 1, 15 and 30, respectively. During this time its distance from the Earth decreases from 119 to 102 million miles, the visible portion of the apparent disk is from  $0.823$  to  $0.744$ , and its stellar magnitude from  $-3.4$  to  $-3.6$ . Venus is visible in the south-west after sunset. Mars rises at 20h. 05m., 19h. 20m. and 18h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It is in Gemini, reaching stationary point on November 21 and then beginning to move westward among the stars. Its stellar magnitude is  $-0.5$  and its distance from the Earth on November 15 is 69 million miles. Mars is now a very prominent object and can be seen almost all night. Jupiter is low in the south-west at sunset, and sets about two hours after the Sun. Conditions are unfavourable for observation. Saturn is in Sagittarius, east of Jupiter, and sets about three hours after the Sun. Conditions are unfavourable for observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Nov. 6d. 5h. 05.6m., 318 B. Tau. (*R*); Nov. 15d. 4h. 02.0m.,  $\eta$  Vir. (*R*). *R* refers to reappearance. The Taurid meteors are active near the beginning of the month, but conditions are unfavourable. The Bielids are active about November 14, with a radiant near R.A. 1h. 32m., Dec.  $+43^\circ$ . This shower has recently been recovered photographically, and conditions are favourable, so that there is hope that it may again be seen visually. The Leonids are active on November 15–17, conditions being favourable; the radiant is near R.A. 10h. 08m., Dec.  $+22^\circ$ .

#### Announcements

PROF. REBECCA C. LANCEFIELD of the Rockefeller Institute has been awarded the third T. Duckett Jones Memorial Award of the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation. The award, amounting to 6,500 dollars, was conferred for "her long and continuing studies which are so largely responsible for the present knowledge of the biology of hæmolytic streptococci".

PROF. JOHN McMICHAEL, professor of medicine in the University of London at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith, has been appointed a trustee of the Wellcome Trust in place of Sir Henry Dale, who retired from the Trusteeship in July 1960, and was succeeded as chairman by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Piercy. Sir Henry Dale will continue to serve the Trust in an advisory capacity as scientific consultant.

ERRATUM. In the article entitled "Dwarf Mistletoes" in *Nature* of October 8, p. 112, the author of the paper surveyed is incorrectly given as "J. Knight"; the paper is in fact by Dr. Job Kuijt.