botany, University of Oxford, and distinguished by his work in pure and applied botany, have been elected members of the Athenæum Club under Rule II., which provides for election by the Committee of "persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature, or the arts, or for public services."

THE annual dinner of the British Science Guild will be held at the Criterion Restaurant, London, on Thursday, May 12. Lord Askwith will preside, and the guests include Sir Alfred Mond, Sir Herbert Samuel, the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, Sir William Pope, and Sir Frederick Keeble. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, British Science Guild, 6 John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

AT the annual general meeting of the Ray Society held on Mar. 24, the following officers were re-elected: *President*, Prof. W. C. McIntosh; *Treasurer*, Sir Sidney F. Harmer; *Secretary*, Dr. W. T. Calman. Dr. G. P. Bidder was elected a vice-president, and Mr. J. Spedan Lewis and Mr. F. Martin Duncan were elected new members of council. It was announced that the Society's issue for 1927 would be the first volume of a "Monograph of British Sea Anemones," by Dr. T. A. Stephenson, which will be illustrated with coloured plates from the author's drawings of the living animals. It is expected that this work will prove unusually attractive as well as of great scientific interest.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—An assistant master for mathematics at the Government High School, Nassau, Bahamas—The Board of Education (C. A. (T.)), Whitehall, S.W.1, or The Scottish Education Department (T.), Whitehall, London, S.W.1 (April 11). An assistant pathologist at the Charing Cross Hospital Institute of Pathology—The Secretary of the Institute, 62 Chandos Street, W.C.2 (April 25). Junior assistants in the aerodynamics department of the National Physical Laboratory—The Director, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington (April 30). A lecturer in geography at Armstrong College—The Registrar, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (May 7). A professor of agriculture at Armstrong College—The Registrar, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (May 20). An assistant in the Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand—The High Commissioner for New Zealand, 415 Strand, W.C.2 (May 31). An assistant in the Laboratory of Zoophysiology of the University of Copenhagen, mainly for research work in respiratory metabolism and gas analysis—Prof. A. Krogh, The University, Copenhagen. A teacher of design, with special reference to the textile industry, at the Leicester College of Arts and Crafts—The Registrar. A senior biology mistress at the Cheltenham Ladies' College—The Principal.

Our Astronomical Column.

THE BIELID METEOR SHOWERS.—Mr. Willard J. Fisher, of Harvard Observatory, contributes a paper to *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sciences*, Dec. 1926, in which he collects a large amount of material relating to various apparitions of these showers, and plots them in the endeavour to trace the laws of their recurrence. In 1741 and 1798 the shower occurred on Dec. 6 and 7; there were also December showers in 1830, 1838, and 1847, but all since then have been in November, owing to the motion of the node. On plotting the showers they appear to group themselves along four different lines, indicating presumably that there are several condensations of meteors along the orbit, their periods being slightly different. Many of the brighter showers are separated by intervals of 13·0 years (double the period of the comet). It is noteworthy that three of the four lines in the diagram converge towards a point a few years ahead of the present time, when the date of the shower will be Nov. 16. It will be well, therefore, to keep a careful watch for these meteors in coming years.

COMET GRIGG-SKJELLERUP.—It is curious how this comet has consistently been associated with the British Astronomical Association. It was found both in 1902 and 1922 by members of the Association, Mr. J. Grigg of Thames, New Zealand, and Mr. Skjellerup of Cape Town. The suggestion of identity was first made by Mr. R. T. Crawford and Mr. W. F. Meyer of California, but it was Mr. G. Merton, another member of the Association, who finally proved it, and made a prediction for the return of the present year.

Mr. F. J. Hargreaves, the director of the photographic section of the Association, was the first to photograph the comet at the present return, on two successive evenings, Mar, 27 and 28. It was Mr. Merton who detected the very faint images of the comet, Mr. Hargreaves having overlooked them. Further confirmation was obtained by a photograph taken by Prof. Schorr at Bergedorf on Mar. 31. Mr. Hargreaves uses an aero-lens of 20 inches focus, the mounting being home-made. It is a great encouragement for amateurs that this tiny equipment beat the instruments at the Yerkes and Harvard Observatories, which reported in the same week that they could obtain no trace of the comet. The explanation is that such large, faint, diffused objects are specially adapted to small-scale photographs using a large light-ratio. The deduced date of perihelion is May 10·245, 1927, U.T., which is only one-tenth of a day earlier than Mr. Merton's predicted date, May 10·34. This date had been communicated to Mr. F. E. Seagrave, who published ephemerides based upon it, but without mentioning Mr. Merton's name.

The corrected elements are as follows:

T 1927 May 10·245 U.T.

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} \omega & 355^\circ\ 1'\ 48'' \\ \Omega & 215\ \ 32\ \ \ 1 \\ i & 17\ \ 29\ \ 18 \end{array}\right\} 1927{\cdot}0$$

ϕ 43 48 58

log q 9·95068

Period 4·98772 years.

Ephemeris for 0^h U.T.:

		R.A.	Decl.	[log r.	log Δ.
Apr.	6.	5^h 58·6^m	1° 25′ S.	0·0123	9·7642
	14.	6 11·8	1 17 N.	9·9896	9·7213
	22.	6 27·3	4 43	9·9707	9·6676
	26.	6 36·1	6 49 N.	9·9633	9·6363

The comet will approach within 19 million miles of the earth early in June. It will probably be a difficult object to observe accurately, being large and diffused.