

but also—and perhaps especially—to medical officers of health and others in Great Britain seeking information regarding the control of local mosquito pests. Full information can be obtained from the Director of the Institute.

A SPECIAL number of the *Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie* has been dedicated to Prof. Ernst Cohen, of the University of Utrecht, to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of his professorship.

READERS interested in South Africa should obtain catalogue No. 501 of Messrs. F. Edwards, Ltd., 83 High Street, Marylebone, W.1, which gives the titles, and, in many cases, other particulars of some 700 books, etc., relating to that part of the globe. A later catalogue, No. 502, deals with nearly 900 works relating to the Near East and Egypt.

PROF. A. N. WHITEHEAD has a new book entitled "Symbolism: its Meaning and Effect," appearing through the Cambridge University Press. The same house will publish almost immediately "Psychology and the Soldier," by F. C. Bartlett. The work aims at showing how a knowledge of psychology and social psychology can be brought to bear upon the selection and training of recruits, the maintenance of discipline, and the development of morale. It also gives a brief account of some of the mental disorders of warfare and of their treatment.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A special librarian at the Institute of Metals—G. Shaw Scott, Secretary, 13-14 Members Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.1 (Nov. 15). A temporary draughtsman under the Directorate of Technical Development, Air Ministry—The Secretary, Air Ministry, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2 (Nov. 18). A head of the department of mechanical and civil engineering at Loughborough College—The Principal, Loughborough College, Leicestershire (Nov. 21). A junior research officer in the Institute of Animal Pathology, Royal Veterinary College—The Director, Institute of Animal Pathology, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, N.W.1 (Nov. 29). An assistant in the pathology department of the University of Aberdeen—The Secretary, The University, Aberdeen (Nov. 30). Two research assistants in the School of Tropical Medicine Laboratory, Freetown, Sierra Leone—The Hon. Dean, School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool (Dec. 1). A telephone engineer under the Egyptian State Railways—Office of the Chief Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian Government, 41 Tothill Street, S.W.1. A teacher of advanced engineering calculations at the Central Polytechnic, Croydon—The Principal. An assistant at the Harper Adams Agricultural College, for special crop experiments—The Principal, Harper Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Salop.

Our Astronomical Column.

SHOWER OF LARGE METEORS.—Mr. W. F. Denning writes that "on Oct. 31 an assistant watching the sky from his garden counted 51 meteors during the night. Of these, five were as bright as, or brighter than, Venus, and several others were equal to Jupiter. The objects were not directed from one system but from several, the principal of which were as under:

ε Arielids : 42° + 23° . . . . .	12 meteors.
α Arielids : 33 + 19 . . . . .	8 meteors.
γ Andromedids : 27° + 43° . . . . .	8 meteors.

The bright meteors were nearly all conformable to one or other of these streams. The two in Aries have often been observed before, but the Andromedids have been very little in evidence at the end of October in past years. One of them, as bright as Venus, observed at 20<sup>h</sup> 32<sup>m</sup> G.M.T. on Oct. 31, was also seen by Mr. Pye-Smith at Beckenham, Kent, as it passed through the central region of Perseus and disappeared a little to the left. The radiant point is indicated at 27° + 43° and the height of the meteor 65 to 27 miles above the mouth of the Thames from north of Margate to east of Southwold. The observer at Kent mentions that the light of the object illuminated his garden, and no doubt many metropolitan residents witnessed the flight of the meteor."

THE NEBULOSITY AROUND NOVA AQUILÆ III.—Shortly after the appearance of Nova Aquilæ III. (1918), Prof. Barnard discovered a bright nebulous envelope about 0".7 in diameter, surrounding the star. Later observations by Barnard and Aitken showed that this envelope was gradually expanding and fading, until in 1921 it became too faint for visual observations. A series of photographs were taken in 1926 with the Mount Wilson 100-inch telescope, and the results are described by Hubble and Duncan in the *Astrophysical Journal*, vol. 66, p. 59. The photographs show the envelope as a

sharp circular disc, of about 16" diameter, with the star in a central position. The expansion therefore appears to have continued at a uniform rate of 1".0 annually, which is in accordance with the early visual observations. Assuming a linear rate of expansion of 1700 km./sec. (based on radial velocity observations from early spectrograms), this would imply a parallax of 0".0028, corresponding to a distance of 360 parsecs.

IDEAL LUNAR LANDSCAPES.—*L'Astronomie* for September contains an interesting article by M. Lucien Rudaux, contrasting lunar and terrestrial landscapes. The blackness of the sky and the absence of all aerial perspective, in addition to the great difference in the character of the surface features, increase the difficulty in making correct mental conceptions of the appearances that would be presented to an observer on the moon. The author gives a series of carefully designed pictures of various lunar landscapes. In one of these we are supposed to be standing at the bottom of a deep crevasse. One wall is brightly lit up by the sun; the other is faintly visible by reflection from it. The shadows must be far from black in regions where a large extent of sunlit cliff is in the field of vision. Another picture shows the aspect of one of the smaller craters soon after sunrise; in another we are situated in the centre of the floor of Plato; only a few of the highest summits in the surrounding rampart are visible, the rest of it is below the horizon. There is also a picture supposed to be taken at the moment before sunrise. A portion of the corona and chromosphere have already risen, also the zodiacal light. A reconstruction is given of the isolated mountain Pico near Plato. It is much less precipitous than one is apt to imagine from its tapering shadow. In fact, its height appears to be only one-tenth of the diameter of its base. A series of careful drawings of this kind are a useful aid in forming correct notions of the nature of the lunar surface.