

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—Probationary assistant constructors in the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors—The Secretary of the Admiralty (C.E. Branch), Whitehall, S.W.1 (May 26). A full-time engineering workshop instructor at the School of Engineering and Navigation, Poplar—The Education Officer (T.1), County Hall, S.E.1 (May 26). A lecturer in biology, specially interested in sea-shore life, at the Brighton Municipal Training College for Women—The Secretary, 54 Old Steine, Brighton (May 30). An advisory and research entomologist at the South-Eastern Agricultural College—The Secretary, South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent (May 31). Full-time lecturers in mathematics and biology at the Chelsea Polytechnic—The Principal, Chelsea Polytechnic, Manresa Road, S.W.3 (May 31). A town-planning assistant on the County Surveyor's staff of the Lancashire County Council—The Clerk of the County Council, County Offices, Preston (May 31). Inspectors of mine beacons in the Mines Department of Southern Rhodesia, and assistant road engineers in the Roads Department of Southern Rhodesia—The High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia, Crown House, Aldwych, W.C.2 (May 31). A full-time teacher of electrical engineering at the Oldham Municipal Technical College—The Secretary for Education, Education Offices, Oldham (May 31). Two assistants at the Ditton Research Laboratory, East Malling, Kent, for making temperature observations and for running refrigerating machinery—The

Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (May 31). A research assistant and demonstrator in geology in the University of Leeds—The Registrar, The University, Leeds (June 2). An assistant editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*—The Secretary, Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 16 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1 (June 2). A temporary full-time physics and chemistry lecturer at the National Society's Training College for Teachers of Domestic Subjects—The Principal, National Society's Training College, Berridge House, Fortune Green Road, N.W.6 (June 2). Chemists on the scientific staffs of research establishments of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research—The Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (June 6). A lecturer and head of the zoology department of the University College of the South West of England, and an assistant lecturer in the same department—The Registrar, University College, Exeter. A head teacher of building construction at the Woolwich Polytechnic—The Principal, Woolwich Polytechnic, S.E.18.

ERRATUM.—In the letter in NATURE of May 17, p. 744, by Prof. G. Hevesy and A. Guenther entitled "Search for an Inactive Isotope of the Element 84 (Polonium)", seven lines from end should read: "1 gm. of each mineral examined cannot contain more than 10^{-11} gm. of the element in question."

Our Astronomical Column.

The Companion of Mira Ceti.—Prof. Aitken gives the following measures of this star in *Publ. Ast. Soc. Pacific* for February:

	P.A.	Dist.
1923·82	130·3°	0·90"
1924·69	131·6	0·84
1925·56	128·9	0·78
1929·98	134·9	0·85
1929·99	134·5	0·87

He notes that the companion was sometimes not seen when the conditions were good, and infers that it, like the primary, is variable. Its magnitude last December is given as 10.

Zi-Ka-Wei Observatory.—This observatory is four miles from Shanghai. It was founded in the sixteenth century by the Jesuit Fathers Ricci, Schall, and Verbiest; after being long closed, it was reopened in 1873. A short illustrated history of the observatory has just been issued. Warnings of typhoons were formerly given by semaphore, but for the last fifteen years they have been given by wireless. The Fathers have received many testimonials of the value of these warnings, some specimens of which are reproduced. Time signals are now also issued by wireless. The observatory took part in the recent international determination of longitudes by wireless signals. There is a photographic equatorial with aperture $15\frac{1}{2}$ in.; this has been used *inter alia* for the formation of an atlas of the moon in 15 plates with Chinese text. The programme also includes sunspots, magnetism, and seismology, a star catalogue of 14,000 stars, and calculation of the perturbations by Jupiter of about

100 minor planets (the last by P. E. de la Villemarque). The illustrations include an amusing Chinese caricature of the astronomers "looking for the second" when an earthquake stopped the clocks on May 14, 1926.

Photograph of a Lunar Landscape.—Many textbooks of descriptive astronomy contain pictures of 'ideal' lunar landscapes, which in most cases are more or less imaginary; but in *L'Astronomie* for April, M. M. Darney reproduces a portion of a photograph taken on Feb. 12 with the 22 cm. equatorial at the Paris Observatory; it contains the region near the limb in the neighbourhood of Newton and Grimaldi, and is so oriented that the landscape appears much as it would be seen from a distant lunar aeroplane. The slopes of the hills are seen in their true proportions; the steepest slopes in the region appear to be about 45° , but most of them are much more gentle. One mountain is a simple cone without any accompanying ring; but the ring formation greatly predominates, and most of the rings appear absolutely regular and unbroken. M. Darney notes that it would be useful to take photographs of this kind of the regions that are generally invisible, but are occasionally brought into view at extreme libration. Mr. H. G. Tomkins is making a photographic study of the moon at his observatory at Dedham, and has photographed some of these little-known regions. One picture, exhibited at a meeting of the British Astronomical Association, showed a mountain with a curious appendage, resembling on an enormous scale some of the great stone blocks that have been lodged on terrestrial mountains by glacial action.