

Wadia, for his studies of the Himalayan axis and other problems of Indian geomorphology of importance to geographers; *Cuthbert Peek grant* to Mr. Edward Shackleton, to assist him in his proposed expedition to Ellesmere Land; *Gill memorial* to Mr. W. B. K. Shaw, for his explorations and studies in the Libyan desert.

The Night Sky in April

JUPITER is now exceedingly well placed for observation, as it is in opposition on April 8. It is a very conspicuous object in the sky, rising a little after sunset. The bands and satellites make this planet a very interesting telescopic object. The planetary nebula, N.G.C. 3242, R.A. 10h. 21m., Dec. 18° 15' S, a little south of μ Hydrae, is now conveniently placed for observation. It is of slightly elliptical shape and bears magnifying well. There are two clusters visible to the naked eye which repay examination with a small telescope. These are N.G.C. 2632 at 8h. 35m. and 20° 15' N (Præsepe), and N.G.C. 2168 at 6h. 4m. and 24° 20' N. The last mentioned is in Gemini, and now appears in the western sky in the early evening.

Announcements

THE Chemical Society will celebrate the centenary of the birth of Mendeléeff in 1834 by a meeting, on April 19 at 8 p.m., to be held in the lecture theatre of the Royal Institution, when Lord Rutherford will deliver a lecture entitled "The Periodic Law of Mendeléeff and its Interpretation". The lecture is open to fellows of the Chemical Society and their guests.

PROF. J. C. McLENNAN will deliver the twenty-fifth Kelvin lecture before the Institution of Electrical Engineers on April 26, taking as his subject "Electrical Phenomena at Extremely Low Temperatures".

PROF. JOHAN HJORT will deliver the Huxley Memorial lecture of the Imperial College of Science at the Huxley Building, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, S.W.7, on May 4, at 5.30. The subject of the lecture will be "The Restrictive Law of Population". Prof. Hjort is professor of marine biology in the University of Oslo, and is well known for his work on the development of the fishing industry and oceanographical research in North European, Atlantic and Canadian waters. He was elected a foreign member of the Royal Society in 1916.

SOME details were given in NATURE of March 17, p. 412, of the mirror which is to be made for the new 200-in. telescope for the California Institute of Technology. According to the New York correspondent of the *Times*, the glass was poured on March 25, an operation which took ten hours to complete; ten months are to be allowed for the twenty tons of glass used to cool.

MR. EDWIN THOMPSON, of Liverpool, has been selected by the Council of the Society of Chemical Industry as president for the year 1934-35. He will take office at the annual meeting of the Society which is to be held in Cardiff on July 16-20. Mr. Thompson

is governing director of Messrs. Thompson Capper Wholesale, Ltd., manufacturing chemists of Liverpool, and has for many years been associated with the work of the Society. He is on the General Committee of the British Association, and at the Liverpool meeting in 1923 he did valuable work as honorary secretary. He was president of the British Waterworks Committee when in 1930 it held its annual meeting in Liverpool. Mr. Thompson originated the idea which eventually led to the formation of the Lancashire Industrial Development Council.

At the first scientific meeting of the Microchemical Club held at the Lister Institute on March 17 the following officers were elected for the year 1934-35: *Chairman*, Dr. Janet Matthews (Imperial College of Science); *Hon. Treasurer and Librarian*, Dr. L. H. N. Cooper (Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth); *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. S. J. Folley (National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, near Reading).

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has recently issued two new Advisory Leaflets, "Turnips, Swedes and Kohl-Rabi" (No. 189) and "Bracken" (No. 190). The former discusses the soils and climate most suitable for the growth of the three root crops mentioned, their varieties and cultural treatment. Many useful practices are described, and the subject matter is quite up-to-date. The leaflet on bracken shows that this plant has a few slight uses—as bedding and food for pigs—but causes damage far beyond its benefits. The chief methods of eradication are cutting off the shoots in June for two or three years in succession, and the application of lime and phosphate. It is suggested that dragging a chain harrow over the newly-emerged sprouts in early spring is also a good method of control.

MESSRS. DULAU AND COMPANY, LTD., of 32 Old Bond Street, London, W.1, have recently published Catalogue No. 218, containing an extensive list of books on botany and gardening, which they have for sale. More than eight hundred volumes, mainly of historical interest, are enumerated, and a further extensive list of standard modern works on gardening is given. Such outstanding contributions to botanical science as Nehemiah Grew's "Anatomy of Plants", several writings of Linnæus and a few early "Herbals" are combined with more modern writings.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A mechanical engineer at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich—The Under-Secretary of State (M.G.O. 4), The War Office, London, S.W.1 (April 7). A head of the Physics Department, a lecturer in electrical engineering, and a teacher of geometrical drawing and elementary mathematics at the Wigan and District Mining and Technical College—The Principal (April 9). A lecturer in geography at the Homerton Training College for Women, Cambridge—The Principal (April 23). A lecturer in chemistry at the University of Reading—The Registrar (May 7). A resident woman tutor in mathematics at the Edge Hill Training College, Ormskirk—The Principal.