

The Sky in April

THE major planets are moving round towards positions favourable for evening observation. In the middle of the summer we shall see Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in the evening sky. At present, Venus is very conspicuous in the western sky just after sunset, while Mars becomes conspicuous in the eastern sky a little later. In April, Mars will precede Spica, near which star it has been during March. This planet is in opposition on April 6. Jupiter follows Mars, about two hours behind in right ascension, but its declination is about 17° S. in April. Saturn is still an early morning object. The moon will occult the Pleiades on April 6. The elements of the occultations visible at Greenwich being as follows:

Star	Magnitude	Phenomenon	G.M.T.
η Tauri	3.0	Disappearance at dark limb	18 ^h 50 ^m
η Tauri	3.0	Reappearance at bright limb	19 19
27 Tauri	3.8	Disappearance at dark limb	19 24
28 Tauri	5.2	Disappearance at dark limb	19 37

On the early morning of April 22, the moon will occult Antares, magnitude 1.2. The reappearance of this star at the dark limb will be visible at Greenwich and will take place at 1^h05^m G.M.T.

Announcements

A DISCUSSION on "Gravity Measurements" will be held in the rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1, on April 26 at 4.30. The discussion will be opened by Dr. E. C. Bullard.

THE Triennial Gold Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society has been awarded to Sir Denison Ross, director of the School of Oriental Studies, and professor of Persian in the University of London. The Triennial Gold Medal was founded in 1897 in commemoration of the sixtieth year of Queen Victoria's reign, and is awarded to an Oriental scholar in recognition of outstanding and distinguished services in the field of Oriental research, calculated to further the objects of the Society. The last award was made to Sir Aurel Stein.

THE senate of the Free City of Danzig has decided to found a State Academy of Practical Medicine consisting of eight professors and fifteen honorary lecturers, with Dr. Kluck as director and Prof. Bürgeler as general secretary.

THE third International Congress of Comparative Pathology will be held at Athens on April 15-18, 1936, and will consist of three sections devoted respectively to human and veterinary medicine and the pathology of plant life. Further information can be obtained from Dr. A. Codounis, 40 rue Didotou, Athens.

A CONFERENCE on "Population Studies in Relation to Social Planning" will be held under the auspices of the Population Association of America at the Hotel Willard, Washington, D.C., on May 2-4. The purpose of this conference is to focus attention on the importance of population studies in public affairs, especially in relation to planning Government activities, and to clarify problems on which further research is needed. It will be primarily a conference between research workers in the field of population and persons engaged in administration or teaching in related fields. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, 308 Victor Building, Washington, D.C.

WE are informed by M. Ch. Marie, general secretary of the International Committee of Annual Tables of Constants, 9 rue de Bagnoux, Paris, 6, that the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has guaranteed for the next five years a contribution to the international fund for the publication of the Annual Tables. In exchange, the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences is to receive a certain number of volumes issued by the Committee of the Annual Tables. These volumes will be distributed among the universities and scientific institutions of the Soviet Union. Similar agreements have been already signed with the French Government, the Swiss Government and the Polish Academy of Sciences.

WE regret to learn that the name of Prof. Ig. Tamm was given incorrectly as "G. Tamm" at the foot of the letter by Mr. J. D. Bernal and Prof. Tamm entitled "Zero Point Energy and Physical Properties of H₂O and D₂O" in NATURE of February 9 (p. 229).

THE January number of *Watson's Microscope Record*, published by W. Watson and Sons Ltd., 313 High Holborn, W.C.1, contains some interesting articles, among them an account of the manufacture of optical glass by Dr. W. N. Wheat, a note on projection with the microscope by W. C. Clothier, and the first part of a description of the theory of the resolution of microscopic objects by E. M. Nelson. These articles will be found of interest by many readers of NATURE, to whom the publication will be sent free on request by Messrs. Watson.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A lecturer in mathematics at the City of Leeds Training College—The Director of Education, Education Department, Calverley Street, Leeds (April 10). A physical assistant in the Scientific Department of the Courtauld Institute of Art, 20 Portman Square, W.1—The Registrar (April 12). A City engineer and surveyor for the City of Nottingham—The Town Clerk, Guildhall, Nottingham (April 15). An assistant in psychology at Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W.1—The Secretary (April 27). A director of the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford—The Registrar, University of Oxford.