

## The Night Sky in January

IN the middle of the month at 22<sup>h</sup>, the full pageantry of the winter constellations is on the meridian; the segment of bright stars is outlined by Capella (near the zenith), the Pleiades and Aldebaran, Rigel, Sirius, Procyon, Castor and Pollux, and so back to Capella. South of Orion's belt may be seen with the naked eye the hazy patch that marks the great gaseous nebula. The planet, Venus, is a brilliant object in the early evening sky; it will continue to increase in brightness until the middle of March. Venus is in conjunction with the moon on January 16<sup>d</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> and with Saturn on January 24<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>h</sup> after the two planets have set, their closest approach in the sky being 1.9°. Mars is a morning star as well as Jupiter, the latter rising only about one hour before the sun in mid-January. The phases of the Moon are: Last Quarter, January 4<sup>d</sup> 14<sup>h</sup>; New Moon, January 12<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>h</sup>; First Quarter, January 19<sup>d</sup> 20<sup>h</sup>; Full Moon, January 26<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>h</sup>. The only bright star to be seen occulted from Greenwich is  $\tau$  Tauri (mag. 4.3) whose disappearance takes place on January 22<sup>d</sup> at 18<sup>h</sup> 0.6<sup>m</sup>. Members of the Quadrantid meteor shower may be looked for about January 2-3, the radiant point being at R.A. 15<sup>h</sup> 20<sup>m</sup> and Dec. 53° N. The times of minima of Algol accessible to observation are: January 10<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>h</sup>, 13<sup>d</sup> 1<sup>h</sup>, 15<sup>d</sup> 21<sup>h</sup>, 18<sup>d</sup> 18<sup>h</sup>, 30<sup>d</sup> 5<sup>h</sup>.

## Announcements

SIR ARTHUR HILL, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been awarded a Veitch Memorial Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society for his services to horticulture.

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its ninety-ninth meeting in Atlantic City on December 28-January 2. The address of Dr. Karl T. Compton, the retiring president, will be entitled "The Electron: its Intellectual and Social Significance". The president-elect is Dr. Edwin G. Conklin. A new feature of this forthcoming meeting is an attempt to bring together for general programmes all those attending the meeting. January 1 has therefore been set aside as "Association Day". On this day, an Association luncheon will be held at which all members may participate; a general lecture on changes in the conception of cancer will be given by Dr. Walter Schiller of Vienna; and in the evening there will be an exhibition of scientific films. The Association will adjourn its sessions to Philadelphia on January 2.

THE well-known publishing firm of Ferdinand Enke in Stuttgart celebrates on January 1, 1937, the hundredth anniversary of its foundation. This firm specializes in works on medicine, natural science and law, and has published a number of important works and periodicals on these subjects.

DR. PAUL RAMDOHR, professor of mineralogy at Berlin, has been elected a member of the Geologiska Föreningen of Stockholm.

PROF. RICHARD KOLKWITZ, professor of botany in Berlin, has been elected an honorary member of the Botanical Society of Japan in Tokyo.

THE first award of two thousand dollars of the Squibb fellowship at Harvard University for research in organic chemistry by E. R. Squibb and Sons, New York, has been made to William P. Campbell of Hagerston, Md., for research in phenanthrene.

THE Institute of Malariology at Rome, directed by Prof. G. Bastianelli, has sent a mission to Abyssinia to study various aspects of malaria. The chief members of the mission are Prof. G. Lega (pathology and clinical medicine) and Prof. G. Raffaele (entomology, epidemiology and prophylaxis).

A STUDENTSHIP is offered to a young, recently qualified medical graduate who wishes to acquire experience in cancer research from the biological point of view and particularly from the virus aspect. The studentship is tenable at the Lister Institute for three years. Further information can be obtained from the secretary, British Empire Cancer Campaign, 12 Grosvenor Road, S.W.1.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE is now acting as an agent for the sale of publications of the British Museum. New publications of the Museum will, in future, be regularly listed in "Government Publications", the monthly catalogue of the Office.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:

Evening lecturer in electrical machinery and design in the West Ham Municipal College—Romford Road, Stratford—The Principal (December 31).

Assistant curator in charge of the Decorative Department in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew—The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 Whitehall Place, S.W.1 (January 4).

Lecturer in heat engines in the Wimbledon Technical College, Gladstone Road, S.W.19—The Principal (January 5).

Assistant lecturer in dairying in University College of Wales, Aberystwyth—The Registrar (January 11).

Lecturer in education and psychology in Rhodes University College, Grahamstown—The Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2 (January 18).

Botanist, advisory officer (Botanical Division), advisory officer (Soils and Chemistry Divisions), and junior assistant (Experiment Station) in the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya—The Secretary, London Advisory Committee for Rubber Research (Ceylon and Malaya), Imperial Institute, London, S.W.7 (January 31).

University professor of pathology in the British Postgraduate Medical School—The Academic Registrar, University of London, W.C.1 (April 16).

Head of the Department of Dairy Chemistry in the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Nr. Reading—The Secretary.