

Australia and the North Island of New Zealand. Among the seven lunar occultations visible at Greenwich, the disappearance of *A Tauri* (mag. 4.5) may be noted on December 25 at 20^h 0.9^m at 120° from the north point of the moon's disk. Of the planets visible, Venus is a conspicuous object (mag. -3.6 to -3.7) setting about 19^h 0^m in mid-December. On December 17^d 17^h the planet is in conjunction with the moon, below which it will be situated 6°. Mercury is not very accessible to observation, but may be seen during the last week of the year near the south-west horizon at 17^h. Mars rising after midnight is in Virgo; on December 21 it passes 3° north of the bright star, Spica. Saturn, in Aquarius, sets about 23^h in mid-December; on Dec. 20^d 19^h the planet is in conjunction with the moon, and on December 28 the sun will be in the plane of the rings, the minor axis of which is now about 2". In addition to the planets, the skies offer at any time during a fine night in December an attractive field for observation. At 22^h in the middle of the month, the constellations of Cassiopeia, Perseus, Andromeda, Taurus and Aries are near the meridian, whilst the stars of Orion, Sirius, Procyon, Castor and Pollux are south-east and eastwards. The Geminid meteor shower should be looked for on or about December 11, the radiant point being at R.A. 7^h 12^m; Dec. 33° N. The light variations of Algol may be observed at about December 1^d 0^h: 3^d 21^h: 6^d 18^h: 18^d 5^h: 21^d 2^h: 23^d 23^h: 26^d 20^h and 29^d 17^h.

Announcements

THE Buchan Prize of the Royal Meteorological Society for 1937 has been awarded to Mr. C. S. Durst, for papers contributed to the *Quarterly Journal* of the Society during the years 1931-35.

THE Mozelle Sassoon High Voltage X-Ray Therapy Department of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, will be opened by Mrs. Meyer Sassoon on December 10 at 2.30 p.m., when Lord Rutherford and Lord Horder will speak. A memorial plaque to Dr. R. G. Canti, late clinical pathologist to the Hospital, will be unveiled by Dr. Malcolm Donaldson, director of the Cancer Department.

MESSRS. W. WATSON & SONS, LTD., of 313 High Holborn, London, W.C., are holding their fourth Annual Exhibition of Microscopes in the Central Hall, Westminster, on December 7-11. In connexion with the Exhibition, several cinematograph films will be shown, and the following lectures will be given: "Science and Vinegar Brewing" (Mr. Sarson); "The Romance of Shell Life" (Mr. F. Martin Duncan); "Old Instrument-makers" (Mr. R. S. Whipple).

DR. FRICK, the German Home Office Minister, has ordered that specimens of blood should be examined for the presence of alcohol according to Widmark's method in the case of persons apparently under the influence of drink when involved in motor accidents.

ACCORDING to the Soviet Union Year Book Press Service, the large Soviet Medical Encyclopædia has now been completed. It consists of 35 volumes, containing 6,396 articles and 80,000 terms used in medicine and allied sciences; 20 academicians, 692 professors and 1,006 other scientific workers have taken part in the production of the Encyclopædia under the editorship of Prof. N. A. Semashko.

THE Leningrad branch of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine is collecting documents relating to the life and work of the late Prof. I. P. Pavlov. The documents are to be added to the collection already in existence at the Pavlov Museum founded by the Leningrad branch. A commission is approaching men of science and scientific institutions abroad for gifts of any material they may have in their possession relating to Pavlov.

WE are informed that the price of Osborn's "Monograph of the Proboscidea" is 20 dollars (NATURE, Oct. 31, Supp. p. viii, and Nov. 21, p. 860).

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

Lecturer in mechanical engineering in the St. Helens Municipal Technical School—The Director of Education, Education Office, St. Helens (December 8).

Lecturer in mechanical engineering and lecturer in electrical engineering in the Norwich Technical College—The Principal (December 9).

Lecturer in mechanical engineering in the West Hartlepool Technical College—The Secretary for Education, Education Offices, West Hartlepool (December 9).

Temporary assistant engineers, engineering assistants and junior engineering assistants to the Ministry of Transport—The Establishment Officer, Ministry of Transport, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1 (December 11).

Junior research chemist for work on fuel problems at the Bone Research and Development Association, Ltd.—Prof. W. A. Bone, Imperial College of Science, S.W.7 (December 11).

Research physicist to the Printing and Allied Trades Research Association—The Director of Research, 10 Robin Hood Court, Shoe Lane, London, E.C.4 (December 21).

Chief mining engineer to the Safety in Mines Research Board—The Establishment Officer, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, S.W.1 (December 31).

Imperial economic botanist at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi—The High Commissioner for India, General Department, India House, Aldwych, W.C.2 (January 2).

Professor of animal pathology in the University of Cambridge—The Vice-Chancellor (January 12).

Research physicist to the British Cotton Industry Research Association—The Director of Research, Shirley Institute, Didsbury, Manchester.

Principal of the Kadoorie Agricultural School, Mount Tabor, Palestine—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Palestine, Jerusalem.