

faint, its anticipated magnitude at perihelion on December 27 being about 5.5. An ephemeris for this comet is given by Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin in "B.A.A. Handbook", p. 34; corrections to this ephemeris are given by L. E. Cunningham, using the positions obtained by Jeffers at re-discovery. The zodiacal light may be seen before dawn in the first part of the month when the moon is absent. In view of the present general high level of solar activity, the northern skies may also be scanned for the presence of auroral light.

#### Announcements

H.M. QUEEN MARY has once again shown the keen interest she takes in the higher education of women by promising to visit the Royal Holloway College (University of London) at Egham on October 12. H.R.H. Princess Alice is chairman of the governors of this women's College, which has about two hundred students, and she shows a highly practical interest in the College and in the careers of its students. It is worthy of mention that during the university year just closing a student of Royal Holloway College, Miss Gladys E. Muddle, gained the Sherbrooke Studentship and the Sir John William Lubbock Memorial Prize, open to all students of mathematics in the University of London.

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND, principal of the University of Edinburgh, and formerly director of the Geological Survey of India, has accepted the presidency of the Geographical Association for 1938.

THE Le Chatelier Memorial Lecture of the Chemical Society will be delivered on October 28 at 5.30 p.m. by Dr. C. H. Desch, superintendent of the Metallurgical Department, National Physical Laboratory.

THE Sex Education Society has issued a programme of seven lectures to be given at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, during the present session. The first will be delivered by the president, Dr. Norman Haire, at 8 p.m. on October 5. The full programme can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, 27 Harley Street, W.1.

THE Annual Conference of Greenkeepers will be held at St. Ives Research Station, Bingley, Yorkshire, on October 19. During the morning, a tour of the Research Station will be made, and during the afternoon a series of short papers will be given. A course on scientific greenkeeping will be held on October 20-26. The course will include non-technical lectures by members of the staff of the Research Station, coupled with practical work and demonstrations on the experiment ground. Further information can be obtained from the Director, St. Ives Research Station, Bingley.

THE British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, London, N.1, have issued a new edition of their

booklet dealing with B.D.H. standard stains, and including also a full range of the various materials required by the microscopist; the booklet may be obtained free on application. Useful notes are appended upon the bacteriological, histological and pathological applications of the various stains and materials, most of which can be supplied in small quantities suited to the requirements of the individual worker.

DR. S. C. BLACKTIN writes to point out that an error occurs in the short article contributed by Dr. J. S. Owens to NATURE of August 21 upon his "Electrotor Smoke and Dust Meter". The article was based solely upon a paper by Dr. Blacktin in the *Journal of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology*, and not upon an examination of the instrument itself. Referring to the insertion of a new record disk, the words were used "and the cap with its disk screwed into position". Dr. Blacktin points out that this was a misunderstanding of the statement made in his paper; for the record disk is *not* supported inside the cap of the instrument but on a table under it.

THE Academy of Sciences of Cuba has recently celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation.

A CHAIR of social medicine has recently been created in the University of Paris. Its incumbent will initiate fifth-year students into certain elements of preventive medicine such as sickness insurance.

DR. JOHN E. GORDON, field director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, has been appointed professor of preventive medicine and epidemiology at Harvard University Medical School.

THE John and Mary R. Markle Foundation of New York has presented one hundred thousand dollars to the National Research Council for the support of research in endocrinology in the next three years. The fund will be administered by the Division of Medical Sciences.

AS the result of years of agitation by social reformers, no marriage will be possible in the Argentine in future unless the bridegroom is able to present to the civil authorities a certificate that he is free from contagious diseases transmissible in wedlock. The law, which is to be enforced immediately, does not apply to women. Other clauses in the law provide for the compulsory hospitalization of refractory cases of contagious infection and the closing of houses of ill-fame.

ERRATUM. In the obituary notice of Prof. H. E. Armstrong in NATURE of July 24, on p. 149, col. 1, lines 17 and 16 from bottom, for "Sir George Grove" read "Sir William R. Grove".