

Ogilvie describes experiments upon the depth of planting, and the effects of high and low temperatures, on lily bulbs. One cannot escape the conclusion, however, on considering the contents of the present volume, that it deals with less fundamental questions than previous issues.

### Leeds College of Technology

ON the occasion of the distribution of prizes and certificates by Sir William Bragg on December 7, the principal of the Leeds College of Technology presented a report on the work of the last session, emphasizing the value to the local industries of the thoroughly up-to-date technical instruction given in the College to more than three thousand of their personnel. The total number of students was 3,862, of whom 3,320 attended evening classes only and 375 attended part-time day and evening classes. Although education authorities are often inclined to disparage evening classes on the ground that after a hard day's work people cannot be expected to be fit for serious study, they are nevertheless a very valuable part of the country's educational resources. As the principal points out, they are, moreover, capable of exerting a definitely beneficial effect on character: "To attend evening classes regularly after the day's work, for several sessions, each of which includes an English winter, is an indication of grit and perseverance in addition to intellectual ability". It is noteworthy that 379 students were released by employers to attend part-time day classes, generally in addition to evening classes.

### Vocational Guidance

A 'VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE' pamphlet has been issued by the University College of the South-West of England, Exeter, for the use of parents and others. It gives a list of the various college courses with particulars of their duration and the fees payable for them, a list of vocations (other than teaching) for which the courses offer suitable preparation, and a list of other vocations. The attention of parents is directed to the fact that in some cases the course of study is of one year's duration only and entails no long or expensive training. Accompanying the pamphlet is a leaflet directing attention to the increased demand for scientific investigators both for routine and research duties, to the importance for entry into commerce or industry of good qualifications in modern languages and economics, and to a new course for a diploma in public administration. This diploma will, it is anticipated, be a valuable qualification for higher posts in the national and local government services.

### The Laxminarayan Technical Institute, Nagpur

THE foundation stone of the Laxminarayan Technological Institute was laid by His Excellency Sir Hyde Clarendon Gowan, Chancellor of the Nagpur University, at Nagpur on December 8, 1937. The Chancellor paid great tribute to the untiring efforts of the present Vice-Chancellor, Sir Hari Singh Gour, in acquiring the present site for the Institute, which

will be surrounded by charming scenery. The construction of the Laxminarayan Technological Institute and its workshop is the result of a princely bequest, now amounting to more than £400,000, made by the late Rao Bahadur D. Laxminarayan in 1930 to the University of Nagpur for the teaching of applied science and chemistry. The University has decided to begin with the creation of a department of applied chemistry for teaching and research work in this subject. Dr. R. S. Thakur, who had been deputed for the last two years by the University of Nagpur to visit England and the continent of Europe for practical training in applied chemistry, with special reference to oil technology, has now been appointed as the organizing officer. It is expected that the Institute will be in active operation about July of next year.

### Refrigeration Conference

A REFRIGERATION Conference will be held in London on July 12, in the rooms of the Royal Society. This Conference, which is convened by the British Association of Refrigeration, will take place immediately following a meeting at the same centre of the Technical Commissions of the International Institute of Refrigeration, an organization with headquarters in Paris. The subjects provisionally set down for discussion at the Conference, which will be open to all technicians interested in refrigeration, are: influence of low temperatures on enzymes, vitamins, etc.; limitations of 'gas storage'; air conditioning problems; an international unit of refrigeration; standard tables giving the properties of refrigerants. Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, British Association of Refrigeration, Empire House, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London, E.C.1.

### Mathematical Colloquium at St. Andrews.

A MATHEMATICAL colloquium, similar to the very successful gatherings held in 1926, 1930 and 1934, will be held in St. Andrews on July 4–July 15, 1938, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society. Short courses of lectures will be given by prominent mathematicians, including Prof. E. T. Whittaker, Prof. G. D. Birkhoff, Dr. A. C. Aitken, on topics of pure and applied mathematics. On their way to the colloquium, members will have the opportunity of attending a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of James Gregory, who held in succession the chairs of mathematics in the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. This meeting will be held in Edinburgh on July 4. Further particulars of membership of the colloquium can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Edinburgh Mathematical Society, 16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh 1.

### The Night Sky in February

FULL moon occurs on February 14 at 17·2<sup>h</sup> and new moon on March 2 at 5·7<sup>h</sup> U.T. No occultation of stars brighter than magnitude 5½ occurs this month.

The moon is in conjunction with Saturn on February 4 at 18<sup>h</sup> and three hours later with Mars, the two conjunctions illustrating very well the moon's movement in its orbit around the earth. Mars was in conjunction with Saturn on February 2 at 20<sup>h</sup>, and the former continues to move eastwards relative to the latter. Those observers interested in the phenomena of Saturn's satellites should consult p. 30 of the B.A.A. Handbook for the times of eclipses, occultations and transits. The apparent diameter of the minor axis of the ring system is slowly increasing up to a maximum of 8" in August next. Uranus (6th magnitude) is not far from 29 Arietis, a star of similar magnitude. Neptune is in Leo, and at the end of February is about half-way between 89 Leonis and  $\sigma$  Leonis; the disk presented by the planet is 2½" in diameter. The well-known eclipsing binary, Algol ( $\beta$  Persei), is becoming less favourably placed for observation. The change in brightness (in 5 hours the star loses two-thirds of its light and then returns to its original brightness in the following 5 hours) can be seen best about 1½ hours before and after the following epochs: February 6<sup>d</sup> 23·8<sup>h</sup>; 9<sup>d</sup> 20·6<sup>h</sup>; 12<sup>d</sup> 17·4<sup>h</sup>; 24<sup>d</sup> 4·7<sup>h</sup>, 27<sup>d</sup> 1·6<sup>h</sup> and March 1<sup>d</sup> 22·4<sup>h</sup>. In view of the occurrence of magnetic storms commencing on January 16, 22 and 25 (the latter being associated with the great auroral display), it may be worth while watching the northern skies 27 days after each of these dates, especially on or about February 21, when the moon will be absent until after midnight. Analysis of data shows, however, that great magnetic disturbances recorded in this country are much less likely to recur after one synodic solar rotation than those of lesser intensity.

#### Announcements

THE King of the Belgians has conferred upon Prof. H. S. Taylor, professor of physical chemistry in Princeton University, the Cross of Commander of the Order of Leopold II in recognition of the services rendered by him to Belgium as occupant of the Francqui chair at Louvain in chemistry from January until June of last year.

PROF. A. B. WASICKY, professor of pharmacognosy in the Pharmaceutical Institute of the University of Vienna, was awarded the Hanbury Medal for 1937 of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the medal will be presented to him on February 8, when he will deliver a lecture entitled "Modern Points of View and Methods in Pharmacognosy".

MISS JEAN BATTEN has been awarded the Gold Medal of the International Aeronautical Federation. The award was made for the greatest flying achievement of 1937. There were twenty-two nations represented at the Federation's conference, at which the Royal Aero Club represented Great Britain.

THE prize of £100, founded by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, which is offered yearly for an essay on some subject connected with the maintenance of international peace, and is open to all students,

without distinction of sex or nationality, of any university or university college in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, has been divided between Miss Ursula Wasserman of the University of London and Mr. D. D. Hindley-Smith of the University of Cambridge. The subject for the year 1937 was "The Causes of the Failure of the Disarmament Conference".

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK (Dr. William Temple) has accepted an invitation to act as president of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, formerly the Academic Assistance Council, in succession to the late Lord Rutherford.

PROF. N. V. SIDGWICK will deliver the distinguished visitor's address of the Chemical Society of Birkbeck College, on February 14, at 6 p.m. The title of Prof. Sidgwick's address is "Multiple Links". Admission is free, without ticket.

DR. NANNA SVARTZ-MALMBERG, who is well known for her work on intestinal bacteria and their influence on rheumatic diseases, has been appointed professor of medicine at the Stockholm Caroline Institute by the Swedish Government. This is the first time that a Swedish woman has been appointed professor.

A DISCUSSION on the Ministry of Health new model building by-laws will take place at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, on February 8 at 5.30 p.m.

AN international conference of teachers to discuss the actual problems of international relations to-day and to exchange ideas and experiences on the methods of teaching international relations and of promoting international friendship and understanding in the colleges and schools will be held in London on April 22-25. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Education Committee, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

THE Department of Mines and Resources, Mines and Geology Branch, National Museum of Canada, has available a number of reports comprised in a series dealing with the Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1913-18. Many of the publications include half-tone illustrations and maps, and copies will be supplied without charge on application to F. C. C. Lynch, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, from whom a list of the publications available can be obtained.

ERRATUM. In the letter entitled "Westward Extension of the Ranikot Sea" (NATURE, Jan. 29, p. 202) by Lieut.-Colonel L. M. Davies, the names of species appearing in lines 5 and 6 of paragraph 2 should read as follows: *Operculinoides cf. sindensis* (Davies), *Miscellanea stampi* (Davies), *M. miscella* (D'Arch. and Haime).