

notable events of the past session was the inauguration of a Research Fund to which the University Court resolved to appropriate not more than £5,000 a year, from which grants are to be made for specific projects for research.

Research in Tropical Medicine

THE Medical Research Council is offering up to three junior fellowships immediately, for award to qualified medical men wishing to receive training with a view to careers in research work in tropical medicine. The fellowships will be tenable for three years. The first year will be spent at a school of tropical medicine; the second in doing research in the same or some other institution at home; and the third largely in work under direction at some centre in the tropics. The stipend will be at the rates of £300, £400 and £500 per annum in the successive years, with an additional allowance during service abroad and necessary expenses. In three years' time, at least one senior fellowship will be available for candidates who have held the junior fellowships. This will be awarded for a further period of three years, carrying stipend at the rate of £600-£750 per annum, with an additional allowance during service abroad and expenses. The time will be spent mainly in research work in the tropics. The Council is also prepared to consider immediate applications for senior fellowships from candidates who have had adequate experience in research work, whether already specially trained in tropical medicine or not. The Council further intends to establish in due course, as suitable investigators become available as the result of the fellowship scheme, permanent and pensionable appointments for research work in tropical medicine, including senior posts. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Tropical Medical Research Committee, 38 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

Rich Display of the Aquarids

MOHAMMED A. R. KHAN, Begumpet, Deccan, carried out observations of the η Aquarids on May 1-5, the total time of observation being 3^h 45^m. During this period he saw 37 Aquarids and 32 sporadic meteors. The Aquarids are described as moving with long, white, evanescent trains, and the maximum display took place on May 2. In 1935 the maximum occurred on May 5 and was not so rich as this year. An interesting and important note is added by the observer. In some cases, not only with the Aquarids, but also with the sporadic meteors, the meteors grew considerably brighter towards the end of their course. One Aquarid, starting with a scarcely visible nucleus, developed a long voluminous train, glowing with a beautiful apple-green luminescence, towards the end of its flight. A sporadic meteor which was moving rather slowly developed a bright coma of reddish-green colour, attaining a magnitude 3 at maximum. These facts are important in connexion with a photograph of a meteor shown by Mr. E. H. Collinson at the meeting of the British Astronomical Association on March 30. It was suggested by some members that the bright portion of the photograph was the beginning of the path, but those who were experienced

in meteor work did not corroborate this view. The observations from Begumpet confirm the usually accepted fact—that meteors generally brighten up towards the end of their flight.

The Night Sky in June

THE summer solstice on June 22 brings the shortest night lasting, in the northern latitude of Greenwich, less than 7½ hours, according to the sun's setting and rising, and a little more than 3 hours if twilight (nautical) be taken into account. The moon is full on June 12^d 23·8^h and new on June 27^d 21·2^h U.T. A lunar conjunction takes place with Jupiter on June 19^d 3^h: with Saturn on June 22^d 15^h and with Venus on June 30^d 14^h. Venus, a bright star in the evening western sky, sets at about 22½^h, preceded by Mars. Jupiter rises before 0^h after June 10; its present stellar magnitude is about -2·1, as compared with -3·4 for Venus. Saturn is reappearing in the skies as a morning star, and in the middle of the month rises after 1^h. About 21^h in mid-June, Arcturus stands out conspicuously on the southern meridian. Lower in the south at this time will be found Spica just west of the meridian and Antares on the east. Antares, with a radius 450 times that of the sun's, has an average mean density of only 1/3,000 that of air at N.T.P. From a radiant not far from Antares come the slow-moving fireballs known as Scorpiids. Two interesting double stars in Bootes may be noted— ϵ Bootis, having the euphonious name of *Pulcherrima*, is a beautiful double the components of which, separated by 2½", are a 3rd magnitude yellow star and a blue star of magnitude 6½. ξ Bootis, with a period of about 160 years and an orbit of great eccentricity, comprises a yellow star (mag. 4·7) and a purple star (mag. 6·6) separated by about 4½". α Herculis provides another finely coloured pair—a mag. 3·0 orange star and a blue green mag. 6·1 also separated by 4½". Between η and ζ Herculis may be seen a nebulous spot of light which is the well-known globular cluster in Hercules. The stellar population of this spherical system is not less than 50,000 stars; these occupy a volume of space (500 light years across) which would be able to contain the greater number of our naked-eye stars.

Announcements

THE degree of doctor *honoris causa* has been conferred by the University of Athens on Sir James Frazer in recognition of his distinguished contributions to Greek classical learning.

SIR FREDERICK HOBDDAY, formerly principal and dean of the Royal Veterinary College, will give a course of six lectures entitled "A Comparison of Diseases in Animals and Men" at St. George's Hospital Medical School, London, at 5 p.m. on Mondays from May 30. They will be open to medical and veterinary practitioners and students without fee.

THE following Royal Society lectures have recently been announced: June 16, Bakerian Lecture by Prof. C. K. Ingold, professor of chemistry in the University of London, on "The Structure of Benzene"; June 30, Croonian Lecture by Prof. A. N.