

ness and to keepers of Reserves where it is desirable to collect specimens repeatedly from the same trees without damage to them."

Science Masters' Association

THE thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Science Masters' Association will be held in the University of Cambridge on January 3-6, 1939. On January 3, Prof. J. Gray will deliver his presidential address on "The Role of Science in Education". The following lectures have also been arranged: Prof. E. V. Appleton: "The Upper Atmosphere"; G. C. L. Bertram, "Animals of the Antarctic"; Prof. R. G. W. Norrish, "Experiments in Photochemistry"; Prof. W. L. Bragg, "X-Ray Optics"; Prof. O. T. Jones, "The Making of a Geological Map"; Dr. H. B. Cott, "Visual Concealment in Nature and in War"; N. E. Odell, "Everest, 1938". On January 6, a discussion will be held on "Films in the Science Classroom". Further information can be obtained from Mr. W. Ashhurst, The Grammar School, Stretford, Lancs.

The Night Sky in December

THE night lasts for $16\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the latitude of London at the time of the winter solstice on December 22. The moon is full on December 7 and new on December 21. The moon's altitude when southing at Greenwich on December 8^d 0^h 27^m U.T. is $58\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$. No star brighter than mag. $5\frac{1}{2}$ is occulted during the month. Conjunctions between the moon and planets occur as follows: December 3^d 2^h, Saturn: 17^d 7^h, Mars: 18^d 16^h, Venus: 20^d 14^h, Mercury: 27^d 0^h, Jupiter: 30^d 11^h, Saturn. On December 5 there is a fairly close approach between the moon and Uranus, actually resulting in an occultation of the latter as seen from parts of Asia and North America. Jupiter and Saturn are both evening stars. At about 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^h on the following dates, the four inner satellites are grouped fairly closely to Jupiter, being easily seen in a pair of binoculars: December 1^d (Satellite I occulted), 2^d, 10^d (Satellite IV occulted), 17^d, 18^d, 19^d, 25^d to 28^d. Mercury, Venus and Mars are all morning stars. In mid-December, Venus rises about 5^h; it is at its greatest brilliancy (mag. -4.4) on December 26. The variable star, Algol, is well placed for observation during the month. The approximate times of primary minima accessible to observation are on December 2^d 4.5^h, 5^d 1.3^h, 7^d 22.1^h, 10^d 19.0^h, 25^d 3.1^h, 27^d 23.9^h, 30^d 20.7^h. On or about December 11 the Geminid meteors are at their maximum. In the middle of the month at midnight, there is a fine array of bright stars on the southern meridian.

Announcements

PROF. ANDREW COWPER LAWSON, emeritus professor of geology and mineralogy at the University of California, has been awarded the Penrose Medal, highest honour of the Geological Society of America, "for eminent research in pure geology, and outstanding original contributions and achievements which mark a decided advance in the science of geology".

PROF. JAMES KENDALL, professor of chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, will deliver the Christ-

mas Lectures "adapted to a juvenile auditory" at the Royal Institution on January 3, 5, 7 and 10. The subject of the lectures will be "Young Chemists and Great Discoveries".

MR. K. DE B. CODRINGTON, keeper of the Indian Section of the Victoria and Albert Museum, has been appointed to give the Charles Phelps Taft Memorial Lecture at the University of Cincinnati in January. Mr. Codrington has been attached to University College, London, for many years as honorary lecturer in Indian art, and is chairman of the Indian Research Committee of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He held the chair of archæology at the University of Cincinnati in 1925-26. His present invitation to the United States is an indication of the increasing interest there in India, and especially Indian art. Mr. Codrington intends to investigate the educational activities of various museums in the United States during his visit.

THE Nobel Peace Prize for 1938 has been awarded to the Nansen Office for Refugees in Geneva. The Nansen Office ceases its activity at the end of this year, and its duties will be continued in London by the newly founded International Commission for Refugees. The Prize will automatically be transferred to the new Commission in London, the director of which is Sir Herbert Emerson.

THE Geophysical Discussion at the Royal Astronomical Society on "The Night Sky and Aurora", arranged for January 27, has been postponed to May 19. The discussion arranged for May 26 is cancelled. On March 24, 1939, Dr. E. C. Bullard will open a discussion on "Recent Geophysical Investigations at Sea".

MESSRS. FRANCIS EDWARDS, LTD., 33 Marylebone High Street, W.1, have issued a catalogue (No. 630, 1938) containing many rare examples of books relating to the sea, atlases, autograph letters, log books, etc. The gems of the collection are, perhaps, a fine first edition of Sir William Alexander's "An Encouragement to Colonies" (1624), "Hakluytus Posthumus" of Purchas (1624-26), "The Principal Navigations" of Richard Hakluyt (1598-1600) and an atlas, the "Strassburg Ptolemy" (1513). There is also a long series of works, with many rarities, dealing with the *Bounty* mutiny and Captain Cook's voyages. Among scientific works listed we notice copies of the "Challenger Report", Sir J. D. Hooker's "Botany of the Antarctic Voyage" of the *Erebus* and *Terror*, the "Botany and Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. 'Sulphur'", Darwin's "Surveying Voyages of H.M.S.'s 'Adventure' and 'Beagle'", and a complete set of the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*.

IN the short notice of J. Halero-Johnson's "Reverse Notation" on p. 775 of NATURE of October 29, the reviewer, in quoting examples of the abundance of negative digits, inadvertently omitted the word 'minus' before $\log 6.335$. According to the reverse notation, $\log 6.335 = 1.3204$, but in converting subtraction into addition, $\text{minus } \log 6.335 = \bar{1}.3204$ is used.