

Earthquake in Greece

ACCORDING to a *Times* message, a severe earthquake was felt on Wednesday, May 31, with most damage being done near Kalavryta, about midway between Patras and Corinth on the Island of Morea in the south of Greece. The epicentre appears to have been near lat. $38^{\circ} 1' N.$, long. $22^{\circ} 8' E.$ Earthquakes are not uncommon in Greece though some areas are more seismic than others. Recently earthquakes appear to have occurred mostly near Chalcis, north of Athens, but the present shock may indicate that seismicity has again moved south. There is apparently a seismic zone stretching in an east-west direction across Greece and passing through the present epicentre, for Davison noted 306 shocks during 1896 near the Island of Zante, and there was a very severe shock near Corinth on April 22, 1928. Miss Bellamy has also recorded 27 distinct shocks from epicentres between lat. $37^{\circ} 5' N.$ and $38^{\circ} 5' N.$, long. $21^{\circ} 5' E.$ and $23^{\circ} 2' E.$, during the years 1913-30. In the present instance, a considerable amount of damage was done to property at Kalavryta, but no casualties are reported.

Comets

COMET PONS-WINNECKE (1939 *c*) is rapidly approaching the earth and will soon be visible in a small telescope. An ephemeris is given below from which it will be seen that the nearest approach to the earth will be about July 3, when it will be a little more than 10 million miles away. Towards the end of June it will be close to the moon and will probably be difficult to see as the moon will then be near the full.

	α 1950-0	δ 1950-0	r	Δ
June 12	15h. 16-3m.	$34^{\circ} 33'$	1-112	0-201
20	31-7	21 24	1-103	0-154
30	16 06-8	- 11 08	1-105	0-117
July 2	16-8	19 26		
4	28-1	27 37		
6	40-8	35 18	1-114	0-119

Dr. M. Davidson and also Dr. E. Buchar have computed a general orbit for Comet Jurlof-Achmarof-Hassel (1939 *d*). It is now established that it has a long period, probably several hundred years.

Announcements

A JOINT meeting of the Division for the Social and International Relations of Science of the British Association and the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society will be held in the Physics Department of the University of Manchester on June 21, beginning at 11 a.m. Sir Richard Gregory will give an introductory address on "The Aims of the Division", and will be followed by Prof. H. Levy, who will deliver the Alexander Pedler Memorial Lecture on "Social Relations of Science: Principles and Methods of Analysis". In the afternoon, an old-established industry and a new industry which has arisen out of scientific research will be discussed. Dr. F. C. Toy will speak on "The Influence of Science on the Cotton Industry", and Dr. V. E. Yarsley and Mr. E. G. Couzens will speak on "The Plastics Industry". Admission to the meetings will be free without ticket.

THE new buildings of the Department of Glass Technology of the University of Sheffield will be opened by the Right Hon. Lord Riverdale, chairman of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, on June 12.

AT a meeting of the General Council of the British Standards Institution held on May 9 Sir Percy Ashley, formerly secretary and now a member of the Import Duties Advisory Committee, was elected chairman of the Institution for the ensuing year. The annual general meeting will be held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on June 15 at 11.15 a.m.

THE Imperial German Academy at Halle has awarded the Cothenius Medal to Dr. Alfred Vogt, professor of ophthalmology at Zurich, for his pioneer work in certain branches of his speciality.

DR. RAJCHMAN, director of the Section of Hygiene of the League of Nations since 1921, has retired, and has been succeeded by Dr. Gautier of Geneva.

THE DECHEMA, the German Chemical Engineering Society, has removed its offices (Dechema-, Achema- and Standard-office) from Berlin to Frankfurt a.M., Dechema-Haus, Bismarckallee 25. A branch office will remain in Berlin, Haus des Vereins Deutscher Chemiker, Potsdamer Str. 111, Berlin W 35.

THE Mullard Wireless Service Co., Ltd., of 225 Tottenham Court Road, W.1, has sent us a leaflet describing a new Mullard cathode ray tube unit. This unit employs a high-vacuum cathode ray tube with four deflection plates. Owing to the reduction of plate and stray wiring capacities to a minimum, it is suitable for use at all frequencies up to those corresponding to ultra-short radio waves.

AN arrangement has been concluded whereby Johnson, Matthey and Co., Ltd., have acquired a controlling interest in Mallory Metallurgical Products Ltd., and the offices of this company have been removed to those of Johnson, Matthey and Co., Ltd., 78, Hatton Garden, E.C.1. A new factory is being erected at Wembley for the production of the Mallory range of Elkonites and copper alloys for use as electrical contacts, switchgear components and resistance welding electrodes. Dr. L. B. Hunt continues to act as technical manager of the company.

THE Cambridge University Press is about to publish a book by Dr. Lewis F. Richardson entitled "Generalised Foreign Politics". This is a more complete version of Dr. Richardson's address to the British Association last year, in which he applied mathematical methods to problems of international relations.

ERRATUM. In NATURE of May 27, p. 885, col. 2, line 16, for "square centimetre" read "square metre".