

the two objects being 1.2° . It is interesting to compare the colours and magnitudes of Mars and Jupiter when close together. Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur as follows: Jan. 8d. 10h. with Mercury; 12d. 13h. with Venus; 15d. 22h. with Jupiter; 16d. 7h. with Mars; 17d. 17h. with Saturn. In mid-January at about $22h.$, the southern meridian is bright with the stars of Taurus, Auriga, Orion, Gemini, Canis Minor and Canis Major. The Great Nebula of Orion shows to the naked eye as a hazy patch. The photographic plate is required to show the nebulosities, which, enveloping the Pleiades, are but the central condensation, according to Barnard, of an enormous nebula covering at least 100 square degrees. Not far from φ Tauri is a dark nebulous region giving the strongest proof, according to the same authority, of the existence of obscuring matter in space. Near ζ Tauri is the so-called Crab Nebula, which is No. 1 in the catalogue of 103 nebulae drawn up in 1781 by Messier for his own use when searching for and identifying comets.

Announcements

THE Royal Meteorological Society's Symons Gold Medal for 1940 has been awarded to Prof. Dr. J. Bjerknes of the Geofysiske Institutt, Bergen.

THE Secretary for Mines has appointed Lord Cadman to be honorary adviser on oil, and Sir Harold Hartley to be honorary adviser on the development of home-produced fuels.

THE Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland have jointly appointed Dr. Edward Ellice Henderson, a medical officer of the Ministry of Health, to undertake the duties of inspector of anatomy in England, Scotland and Wales.

It is of interest to put on record that Major-General A. G. L. McNaughton, commanding the Canadian Active Service Force which has recently landed in Great Britain, is a science graduate of McGill University and was president during 1935-39 of the National Research Council of Canada.

THE popular series of Gaumont British Instructional Films called "Secrets of Life" have now been made in colour using the Dufay process, and three of the present series of six were demonstrated at Film House on December 20. The valuable teaching aid that colour gives in educational films was apparent, and although many technical difficulties remain to be overcome, these films portraying the life-history of the burnet moth, the genetics of the lupin, the habits of badgers and other subjects have already reached a high level of efficiency. Mr. Oliver Pike's photographs in the badger film represent a real contribution to natural history.

DR. GEORGE W. CORNER, who has occupied the chair of anatomy in the University of Rochester (New York) since 1924, has been appointed director

of the Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C. He succeeds Dr. George Streeter, who has done so much to give the Department of Embryology of the Carnegie Institution its high place in the estimation of embryologists in all parts of the world. Dr. Streeter, who now retires, succeeded the first director—the late Prof. Franklin Mall. Dr. Corner's appointment has the warm approval of his fellow embryologists.

SIR WALTER LANGDON-BROWN has been appointed president of the British Social Hygiene Council in succession to the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P.

A CHILD Guidance Clinic providing a limited service is available at Guy's Hospital for the hospital area.

ACCORDING to official statistics of the last fifty years, there has been a considerable reduction in the tuberculosis mortality in Germany. In women the mortality per 100,000 has fallen from 28.4 to 6.4 and in men from 34.2 to 7.8.

ACCORDING to the latest provisional figures issued by the United States Bureau of Census, the infant mortality reached a record low level of 50.9 per 1,000 live births in 1938, as compared with 54.4 in 1937. The rate has been decreasing steadily for twenty years: in 1915, when the birth registration area was established, it was 99.9.

THE Pan-American Congress of Rural Hygiene organized by the Government of Mexico and the International Congress of Otorhinolaryngology which were to have been held in 1940 have been postponed indefinitely owing to the War.

WE have received the first annual report of the Council of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide, South Australia. New laboratories of the Institute have recently been opened, of which an illustration is given. The Institute provides for the Adelaide Hospital, and for practitioners resident in the district, services in pathology, bacteriology and biochemistry, as well as work in veterinary pathology. A summary is given of the research work conducted by the staff of the Institute. This Institute was described by Sir Charles Martin in *NATURE* of August 26, p. 392.

Chronica Botanica, the international botanical journal published under the editorship of Dr. Frans Verdoorn, is to appear weekly from January 1940. This journal is unique among scientific journals, and contains digests, correspondence, quotations, comments on international affairs, news of institutions, experiment stations, gardens, societies, etc., personal notes and news, reviews, etc. The annual subscription will be 15 guilders, including postage. Further information can be obtained from *Chronica Botanica*, P.O. Box 8, Leyden, Holland.