

with the planets occur as follows: on October 13 with Mercury; on October 21 with Mars; on October 25 with Jupiter and on October 27 with Saturn. Mars souths at about 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. in mid-October; Jupiter at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ h., and Saturn at 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. Saturn is in opposition to the sun on October 22 when the planet's distance from the earth is about 772 million miles. Close groupings of Jupiter's four inner satellites can be seen at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. on October 24 and 25; in the 24-hour interval, satellites I, III and IV have swung from west to east of the planet. On October 19-20, Jupiter occults the ninth magnitude star B.D. -1 $^{\circ}$ 3. At Greenwich the immersion takes place at 22h. 3m. and the emersion at 0h. 6m. As the motion of Jupiter is retrograde at the time, the immersion takes place at the planet's west limb. The computed times are liable to an error of some minutes owing to the slow motion of the planet. From a radiant in Draco a meteor shower associated with the comet Giacobini-Zinner (1900) may occur between October 8 and 10. The zodiacal light may be observed before dawn in the middle of the month. On moonless nights it is also worth looking for auroras, for the sun is still active and there is a pronounced seasonal peak in the frequency of magnetic storms in October, another peak occurring in March.

Scientific and Technical Institutions

The rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society in Burlington House, London, have been closed until further notice; all communications should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary of the Society at the University Observatory, Oxford.

The offices of the Royal Society of Arts have been removed to Buxted Park, Sussex; correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary of the Society, c/o Basil Ionides, Esq., Buxted Park, Sussex.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers is carrying on the bulk of its work at The Meadows, Bletchworth, Surrey, but the Institution building in Storey's Gate, London, will remain open for dealing with personal inquiries and for members or others wishing to make use of the library.

The offices of the Iron and Steel Institute at 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1, are remaining open, and the Joint Library and Information Department will be available for consultation by members and the industries. Two volumes of the *Journal* for 1939 are being issued, in September 1939, and January 1940, respectively. The publication of a *Monthly Journal*, the first number of which was to have been issued in January 1940, has been deferred.

The head office of the Institute of Fuel has been removed to 30 Bramham Gardens, London, S.W.5. The ordinary meetings of the Institute are suspended for the time being, but it has been decided to continue publication of the journal. Mr. H. A. Humphrey will deliver the Melchett Lecture, on "The Supply of Explosives during the Last War and the Early History of Billingham", at a luncheon to be held on October 19.

The offices of the Institute of Physics and the *Journal of Scientific Instruments* have been removed to the University of Reading, Berkshire.

The offices of the Institute of Wireless Technology have been transferred to 25 Firs Drive, Palmers Green, London, N.13; for the duration of the war, examinations will be held only once a year.

Announcements

CONTRARY to what has already been published, the majority of the departments of the Imperial College are remaining at South Kensington; only the Mining Department is going to Camborne and the Metallurgy Department to Swansea. All other departments are preparing to begin normally on October 10, this being possible through the provision of adequate shelters in the basements.

THE Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, are now open every day from 11 a.m. until 4.30 p.m., but should daylight air raids take place, then no doubt the Ministry of Agriculture will close them again. The plant houses are open from 1 p.m. until 4.15 p.m. but the museums will remain closed. Only three of the gates will be open: the Main Gate, Victoria (opposite Kew Gardens Station) and the Lion at Richmond end. Visitors to the Gardens go there at their own risk, as there are no air-raid shelters in the Gardens.

DR. E. PALMÉN has been appointed director of the Thalassological Institute, Helsinki.

THE University of Toronto has received from the Rockefeller Foundation a gift of 250,000 dollars, a third of which is to be spent on researches on insulin and dementia præcox.

KING GUSTAV OF SWEDEN has devoted the money collected on the occasion of the thirtieth year of his reign, amounting to five million kronen, to the foundation for the study of paralytic diseases, especially poliomyelitis, and to the campaign against tuberculosis.

AN honorarium of a thousand dollars to promote research work in ophthalmology is offered through the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness. The subject is simple non-inflammatory glaucoma. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Association, 66 Boulevard Saint-Michel, Paris.

THE Fleming Manufacturing Company, Providence, R.I., has constituted a fellowship for the study of the design, construction, and operation of oil filters in the Mellon Institute. Dr. Glenn O. Ebrey, who has been appointed to the incumbency of the fellowship, received his professional education at Illinois College and at the University of Pittsburgh. During 1931-32 he was research chemist with the Sinclair Refining Company, research and development division, East Chicago, Ind. For the past seven years he has been chief chemist of the Pennzoil Company, Oil City, Pa.