

0.215 mm.), and No. 3 (0.215–0.300 mm.). These correspond closely with the figures quoted in a catalogue issued by the firm in March 1859, which says No. 1 is 1/250 in. in thickness, No. 2 1/160 in., and No. 3 about 1/100 in.

#### Vital Statistics in Queensland

OUT of a total of 9,530 deaths in Queensland in 1939, 2,786 were classified as due to diseases of the heart or circulatory system. Cancer and other tumours were responsible for 1,069, and diseases of the respiratory system for 811. Parasitic and infectious diseases claimed a total of 747, the chief of these being pulmonary tuberculosis (290) and influenza (221). Violent or accidental deaths claimed 812 victims. Out of a mean population of 1,013,000, more than 95,000 received treatment at public hospitals during the year.

#### Earthquakes Registered at Kew

BETWEEN May 18 and June 15, seven large earthquakes were registered by the seismographs at Kew Observatory. These were on May 23 (two), 24 and 30, June 6, 10 and 11. The two shocks on May 23 were from the same epicentre 2,850 km. distant. They commenced with compressional waves at 19h. 57m. 17s. and 22h. 39m. 33s. G.M.T. respectively, and the first attained a maximum ground amplitude at Kew of 24  $\mu$ . The shock of May 30 at 21h. 47m. 32s. G.M.T. from 17,000 km. may have had a focal depth of about 400 km. and the shock of June 10 at 20h. 46m. 10s. G.M.T. from 4,900 km. may also have had a deep focus (450 km.). The other shocks were smaller, and all the readings and calculations are tentative.

#### Earthquake in Baja, California

THE United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association, on the basis of reports from fourteen seismograph stations, has found the epicentre of the earthquake of March 15, 1941, at 5h. 46.3m. G.M.T. to be provisionally at latitude 28.1° N., longitude 113.6° W. This is south-west of Calmalli and towards the northern end of the Vizcaino Desert, in an established seismic region.

#### Wilhelm Preyer (1841–1897)

PROF. WILHELM THIERRY PREYER, a well-known German biochemist and psychologist, was born on July 4, 1841, at Moss Side, Manchester. He studied in Bonn, Heidelberg, Berlin, Vienna and Paris, where he was a pupil of Claude Bernard and Wurtz. In 1869 he was appointed professor of physiology at Jena, where he remained until 1888. He then moved to Berlin, where he served as lecturer until 1893 when he retired, and died at Wiesbaden on July 15, 1897.

Preyer was a prolific writer, first in biochemistry and later in psychology. His biochemical publications were concerned with hæmoglobin and meth-hæmoglobin (1868), blood acids (1868–70), blood crystals (1871), while his psychological works included the five senses of mankind (1870), the causes

of sleep (1877), colour and temperature sense (1881), discovery of hypnotism (1881), and the soul of the child, which went through eight editions (1882–1912).

#### The Night Sky in July

THE moon is full on July 8 at 20.3h. and new on July 24 at 7.7h.U.T. The bright star, Aldebaran (magnitude 1.1), is occulted by the moon on July 20. As seen from Greenwich the predicted time of disappearance is 2h. 47.0m. U.T. at position angle 38° from the north point of the moon's image; the reappearance is at 3h. 34.0m. at position angle 297°. (sunrise is at 4h. 5m. : add 2h. to all times to convert to Midsummer Time). Of the planets visible during this month, Venus is low in the west after sunset and not easily seen. Mars is above the eastern horizon at about 23½h. in mid-July. The gibbous phase of its disk can be seen in a small telescope. The planet is increasing in brightness. Saturn and Jupiter are both morning stars. Saturn is in conjunction with the moon on July 19d. 1h. and Jupiter on July 20d. 9h. After the middle of the month, Mercury may be seen as a morning star, greatest elongation (20° west) occurring on July 24.

#### Announcements

SIR HENRY DALE has announced in a letter in *The Times* the gift by the American Physiological Society of 5,000 dollars to the Royal Society "for the support of British scientific publications, especially in physiology". This is the third gift recently made by American scientific institutions to aid science in Britain; the Rockefeller Institution made a grant for publications (*NATURE*, Feb. 22, p. 237) and the American Philosophical Society has given 10,000 dollars "for the aid of science in Britain" (*NATURE*, April 5, p. 414).

PROF. FRANK HORTON, professor of physics in the University of London, has been re-elected vice-chancellor of the University for the year 1941–42.

DR. R. J. W. Le Fevre, lecturer in chemistry at University College, has been appointed reader in the University in respect of that post.

THE following doctorates have been conferred: *D.Sc.* on Mr. Bruce Chalmers, of University College, and on Mr. S. G. Clarke, of Battersea Polytechnic; *D.Sc. (Economics)* on Mr. S. K. Muranjan, of the London School of Economics.

AN Academy of Sciences has been established at Tiflis, Georgia, in connexion with the University.

THE Trustees of the Lady Tata Memorial Fund announce that, on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee, they have agreed, if circumstances permit, to make the following awards for research in blood diseases, with special reference to leukaemia, in the academic year beginning on October 1: Grants for research expenses to Dr. J. Furth (New York), Dr. P. A. Gorer (London) and Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith (Oxford); part-time personal grant and grant for research expenses to Dr. W. Jacobson (Cambridge).