14,650 km. It reached its maximum at 8h. 30m. 4s. U.T. with a wave of period 28s. and ground amplitude of 66 μ at Kew. The shock of September 4 was only a little less intense and was probably better recorded. It commenced with *ePz* at 10h. 37m. 54s. U.T. from 15,300 km., attained a maximum of 56 μ at 11h. 30m. 34s. U.T. and finished recording at 14h. 10m. Two shocks were recorded on September 14, the first at 4h. 28m. 30s. U.T. from 12,600 km. and the other at 13h. 48m. 43s. U.T. probably from the same epicentre. All identifications and calculations are tentative.

During the latter half of September 1941, four large distant earthquakes were registered by the seismographs at Kew Observatory. The first, on September 16, began recording at 21h. 59m. 1s. U.T. with a probable $iPKP_1$ compressional wave on the vertical record, and from the tentative interpretation of the record it may have come from an epicentre 17,800 km. distant from Kew. The maximum ground movement attained an amplitude of 70 μ. The shock of September 18 began recording at 2h. 24m. 46s. U.T.; but since the pulses were small and emergent no interpretation can be given with confidence. The earthquake of September 21 began recording with *ePz* at 22h. 45m. 44s. U.T.; had a possible *S* at 50m. 12s., *eLQ* at 55·5m. and eL_R at 54·5m. The shock of September 24 was greater than the two previous ones. With a possible *iSKS* at 1h. 13m. 11s. U.T., it came from a probable epicentral distance of 11,850 km. and attained a maximum ground amplitude at Kew of 27 μ at 1h. 56m. 6s. U.T.

The Night Sky in November

THE moon is full on November 4 at 2h. U.T. and new on November 19 at 0h. 4m. Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur on the following dates: Mars on November 1d. 15h., Mars 0·1° S.; Saturn on November 5d. 7h., Saturn 2° N.; Jupiter on November 7d. 8h., Jupiter 4° N.; Mercury on November 17d. 17h., Mercury 2° S.; Venus on November 22d. 10h., Venus 8° S.; Mars on November 28d. 22h., Mars 2° N. On November 17 Saturn is in opposition to the sun and on November 21 Uranus is in opposition to the sun. The distances of the planets from the earth are then 756 and 1,719 million miles respectively. Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune are morning stars; Saturn is a morning star until November 17, and after that an evening star. Uranus is a morning star until November 20 and then it becomes an evening star. Venus and Mars are evening stars. Mars is a conspicuous object, crossing the meridian at 22h. 6m. and 20h. 13m., at the beginning and end of the month, respectively. Two meteor showers occur during the month. The Leonids, associated with Tempel's Comet, are visible on November 13–14, the radiant point being about R.A. 10h., Dec. + 22°. The Andromedes, associated with Biela's Comet, can be seen during November 18–24; the radiant being at R.A. 1h. 40m., Dec. + 43°. The Leonids are visible in the morning hours and the Andromedes can be seen in the evening. The Andromedes paths can easily be traced as they are slow moving meteors.

Comet van Gent (1941 *d*)

IN NATURE of August 2, p. 139, it is stated that a new comet (1941 *d*) had been discovered by Dr. H. van Gent, of Bosscha Observatory, Lembang. Dr. van Gent, writing from the Union Observatory, Johannesburg, informs us that the comet was discovered by him from plates taken with the Franklin Adams telescope at that Observatory. The comet was also discovered, independently, by Mr. G. du Soleil, Observatoire Privé, Kilomines (Ituri), Belgian Congo, on July 12.

Announcements

AT the quarterly meeting of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England it was announced that Mr. D. L. Kerr has been admitted as a Macloghlin scholar, and that Prof. John Beattie has been appointed Bernhard Baron research professor. The following awards were reported: a Prophit studentship to Dr. J. Clark Davidson; a Mackenzie Mackinnon research fellowship to Dr. Geoffrey Bourne.

AT the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh held on October 27, the following officers were elected: *President*, Prof. E. T. Whittaker; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. Leonard Dobbin, Prof. R. Stockman, Prof. James Ritchie, Dr. G. W. Tyrrell, Prof. C. T. R. Wilson and Dr. James Watt; *General Secretary*, Prof. James P. Kendall; *Secretaries to the Ordinary Meetings*, Prof. R. J. D. Graham and Prof. W. M. H. Greaves; *Treasurer*, Dr. E. M. Wedderburn; *Curator of the Library and Museum*, Dr. J. E. Mackenzie; *Councillors*, Mr. A. Graham Donald, Dr. Alan W. Greenwood, Prof. T. H. Milroy, Dr. W. P. D. Wightman, Prof. Edward Hindle, Prof. J. R. Matthews, Sir Arthur Olver, Dr. David Russell, Dr. Robert Campbell, The Right Hon. Lord Cooper, Prof. E. W. H. Cruickshank and Sir J. Donald Pollock, Bart.

THE Royal College of Surgeons of England has announced a vacancy for a Prophit studentship in cancer research. The studentship will not exceed the annual value of £500 with an allowance not exceeding £200 for expenses of travelling, and will be for one year in the first instance, but is renewable. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2. Applications should be made before November 22.

ERRATUM.—Sir Arthur Hill writes: "In my article 'The Search for Economic Plants, in NATURE of July 5, p. 15 and July 12, p. 42, Ephedra was accidentally included among the plants yielding important insecticides (p. 44, line 5 from base). This is, of course, incorrect. The alkaloid ephedrine, which is derived from the dried twigs of two Chinese and an Indian species of Ephedra (Gnetaceæ), is similar in its physiological effects to adrenaline in moderate doses. Ephedra plants and seeds have been sent by Kew to suitable Colonies in the hope of producing a supply of this valuable drug."