

collected from biologists. UFAW is not in entire agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture's war-time rabbit-trapping arrangements in allowing steel traps to be set in the open, and prefers the rabbit to be exterminated as a pest and not preserved for the trapping industry. It disagrees with recent attempts in rural circles to re-stock warrens that have been exterminated in the war-time rabbit campaign. The Federation has recently issued a leaflet directing attention to the condition of the Canadian beaver, noting that more than fifty thousand beavers a year have recently been trapped in Canada. It plans to promote Parliamentary bills to prohibit the sale of rabbits mutilated by gin trap or snare, and to prohibit the sale and manufacture of gin traps. Its Bill to prohibit the setting of gin traps in the open and making rabbit extermination compulsory became law in 1939.

### Lice

UNDER the title "Lice" the British Museum (Natural History) has added another pamphlet to its Economic Series (1942). The author, Dr. John Smart, gives a very clearly written account of these creatures affecting man, including their life-history and how infection takes place. A short statement regarding louse-borne diseases is also included and there is a useful section dealing with the prevention and treatment of lousiness. The pamphlet is well up to date and includes some of the most recently acquired information. In its thirty-two pages are comprised all the essential facts likely to be required by non-technical readers. It can be obtained from the Museum or through a bookseller, price 6d.

### Geophysical Institute of the Andes

THE Geophysical Institute of the Andes, just inaugurated in Bogota, Colombia, at the new Colegio de San Bartolome, is the most important one in South America, the only one in Colombia, and one of eight under the Southern Cross. It is directed by two Jesuits, the Rev. Simon Sarasola and Jose Ramirez, the latter a graduate in seismology at St. Louis. The seismological station is about 8,745 ft. above sea-level, and half-way up the Andes del Norte.

### The Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Two hundred and ninety-five students have graduated at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, during the last eleven years. 90 per cent of them have found employment of a nature permitting them to continue their studies in Palestine. Thirteen graduates found occupations abroad, mostly in the United States, and fifty-six continue with scientific and research work in the University itself, in the Hadassah Hospital, the Palestine Government, or other public institutions.

### Hermann C. Vogel, 1842-1907.

HERMANN CARL VOGEL, the German astronomer, was born at Leipzig on April 3, 1842. He was the youngest son of Dr. Vogel, a well-known schoolmaster and a brother of Edouard Vogel (1829-56), the African explorer. From the University of Leipzig young Vogel entered Leipzig Observatory and assisted Zöllner in researches on solar prominences. From 1870 until 1874 he was in charge of von Bülow's

observatory at Bothkamp in Holstein, where he did spectroscopic work on the sun, the planets, stars and nebulae. When the German Government in 1874 founded the Astrophysical Observatory at Potsdam, Vogel became one of the assistants, with Spörer and Lohse as colleagues. With Müller he prepared a spectroscopic star catalogue containing particulars of 4,051 stars, and in 1887 with Schreiner began the measurement of the radial motion of stars. He took an active part in the work of the International Chart of the Heavens and in many ways furthered astronomical science. His honours included the Valz Prize of the Paris Academy of Sciences, the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, the Draper Medal of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Prussian Order of Merit. He died at Potsdam on August 14, 1907, leaving by his will 17,000 marks to the Berlin Academy of Sciences for the encouragement of research in astrophysics. He had been director of the Potsdam Observatory since 1882, and at his death he was succeeded by Schwarzschild.

### Night Sky in April

THE moon is full on April 1d. 12h. 32m. U.T. and new on April 15d. 14h. 32m. Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur as follows: Venus on April 11d. 16h., Venus  $0.1^{\circ}$  N.; Saturn on April 18d. 05h., Saturn  $3^{\circ}$  N.; Jupiter on April 20d. 01h., Jupiter  $5^{\circ}$  N.; Mars on April 20d. 17h., Mars  $6^{\circ}$  N. On April 4d. 04h. Mars will be in conjunction with Jupiter, Mars  $1.7^{\circ}$  N., and on April 28d. 09h. Saturn will be in conjunction with Uranus, Saturn  $1.6^{\circ}$  S. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are still well placed for observation in the evening. Venus is a morning star and rises about 4h. in the middle of the month. On April 27d. 20h. 15.3m. the star  $\beta$  Virginis, mag. 3.8, will be occulted by the moon. An interesting binary,  $\gamma$  Virginis, has components of nearly equal magnitude, 3.6 and 3.7 respectively; the separation is  $5.75''$ . The Lyrid meteor shower will be active during April 18-22; the radiant is at R.A. 18h., N. Dec.  $33^{\circ}$ .

### Announcements

THE second lecture on the Science and Citizenship Foundation will be given by Prof. Lancelot Hogben at the annual general meeting of the Science Masters' Association, at 8 p.m. on April 9, in the Temple Speech Room, Rugby School, Rugby. The subject will be "Biological Instruction and Training for Citizenship". The lecture is open to the public without fee; tickets may be obtained from Mr. W. Ashhurst, Grammar School, Stretford, Lanes, or from Mr. H. J. Harris, 5, Barby Road, Rugby.

THE Town and Country Planning Association has organized a Conference on Industry and Rural Life which is being held at Newnham College, Cambridge, during March 27-30. Separate sessions will be devoted to agricultural planning and policy, decentralized industry, social life in villages, architecture, rural land-ownership, and design of new towns. Among those taking part are Sir Daniel Hall, Sir Montague Barlow, Prof. Patrick Abercrombie, Mr. L. F. Easterbrook and Prof. Sargent Florence.

ERRATUM.—In the article "The Sun and the Ionosphere" (NATURE, March 7, p. 277), line 9 from foot of Column 1, the word "ultra-violet" should have appeared before "radiation".