

of the Society (founded in 1896 as the Moss Exchange Club), at which Sir Clive Forster-Cooper and Dr. John Ramsbottom were guests of honour. During the afternoon of September 27 the meeting was held (by kind permission of the director) in the Board Room of the Natural History Museum. Prof. T. M. Harris, of the University of Reading, read a paper on the fossil liverwort *Naiadita*, and Miss Grace Wigglesworth, formerly of the University of Manchester, on reproduction in *Polytrichum commune*. Among the exhibits was part of the herbarium of the late Mr. H. N. Dixon, a former president of the Society. On September 28 there was an excursion to Eridge and Harrison's Rocks, near Tunbridge Wells, and the rich and interesting bryophyte flora of the sandstone was seen at its best; *Pallavicinia Lyellii*, *Odontoschisma denudatum*, *Orthodontium gracile* and *Dicranum Scottianum* were among the interesting species found. In a stubble field near Eridge a rich flora of ephemeral bryophytes was seen, for which the wet season was doubtless responsible.

### University of Leeds

At a meeting of the Council held on October 16, it was announced that Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., have given £2,000 to establish a research school in the Department of Biomolecular Structure, and the Rockefeller Foundation has given 10,000 dollars for research under the direction of Prof. W. T. Astbury for the current academic year. The Yorkshire Copper Works have given £300 for 1946 and 1947 for award of a scholarship to students of pure and applied science, preferably metallurgy.

Dr. F. C. Happold, reader in biochemistry, has been appointed professor of biochemistry as from August 1. The title of emeritus professor has been conferred upon Prof. J. H. Jones, professor of economics, and Prof. W. P. Milne, professor of mathematics, on their retirement.

Lord Halifax will give the fifth Montague Burton Lecture on International Relations on February 20, 1947.

### Earthquakes during August

ON August 2 an earthquake near Copiapo in northern Chile had its epicentre near lat. 27° S., long. 70° W. The destructive Dominican Republic earthquake at 17h. 51m. 07s. G.M.T. on August 4 had its epicentre near lat. 19.3° N., long. 69° W., which is nine miles east of the Samana Peninsula. Strong aftershocks from this epicentre took place at 13h. 28m. 24s. G.M.T. on August 8 and 19h. 17.6m. G.M.T. on August 21. The earthquake of August 11 at 1h. 54.3m. G.M.T. had its epicentre in the Solomon Islands near lat. 8° S., long. 155° E., whereas that of August 15 at 15h. 23.9m. G.M.T. had its epicentre near lat. 22° S., long. 170° E. All the above epicentres were determined by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association. The earthquakes of August 2, 8, 11 and 21, together with nine others, were registered by Mr. E. W. Pollard at Binstead, Isle of Wight.

### Agricultural Research Council: Post-graduate Scholarship Awards

THE Agricultural Research Council announces the following awards of post-graduate scholarships in agricultural science and in animal health, to take effect from the beginning of the academic

year 1946. Such scholarships were last awarded in 1941, after which, as a war-time measure, they were discontinued. On this occasion the potential needs for specialist advisers in the National Agricultural Advisory Service were taken into account, as well as those of the research service. J. M. Barry, University of Oxford, a three-year research scholarship in animal biochemistry; J. R. S. Fincham, University of Cambridge, a three-year research scholarship in plant genetics; A. Ibbotson, University of Birmingham, a three-year research scholarship in entomology; D. J. R. Laurence, University of Cambridge, a three-year research scholarship in animal genetics; B. C. Loughman, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, a three-year research scholarship in biochemistry; Miss M. T. Morton, University of Edinburgh, a one-year research scholarship in plant pathology; Miss U. Parsons, University of Cambridge, a three-year research scholarship in animal physiology; Miss J. N. Winfield, University of Leeds, a one-year research scholarship in plant physiology.

### The Night Sky in November

Full moon occurs on Nov. 9d. 07h. 10m., U.T., and new moon on Nov. 23d. 17h. 24m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Nov. 14d. 20h. Saturn 4° S.; Nov. 22d. 03h., Jupiter 2° S.; Nov. 24d. 18h., Mars 0.5° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions take place: Nov. 1d. 00h., Mercury in conjunction with Venus, Mercury 3.2° N.; Nov. 6d. 08h., Venus in conjunction with Mars, Venus 5.2° S.; Nov. 15d. 01h., Mercury in conjunction with Mars, Mercury 1.0° S. The following occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 take place, the latitude of Greenwich being assumed: Nov. 2d. 18h. 27.6m., 33 Capr. (D); Nov. 5d. 22h. 11.0m., 30 Pisc. (D); Nov. 6d. 00h. 22.4m., 33 Pisc. (D); Nov. 7d. 19h. 32.1m.,  $\nu$  Pisc. (D); Nov. 16d. 05h. 03.4m.,  $\eta$  Leon. (D); Nov. 16d. 05h. 39.6m.,  $\eta$  Leon. (R); Nov. 18d. 04h. 06.6m.,  $\nu$  Virg. (D); Nov. 18d. 05h. 04.8m.,  $\nu$  Virg. (R). Mercury sets at 17h. 05m. on Nov. 1 and can be seen in the western sky after sunset. The planet is in inferior conjunction on Nov. 21. Venus is in inferior conjunction on Nov. 17 and can be seen towards the end of the month in the eastern sky, rising about 1h. 40m. before the sun. Mars and Jupiter are unfavourably placed for observation. Saturn rises at 22h. 25m. and 20h. 32m. at the beginning and end of the month respectively and is stationary on Nov. 21. The stellar magnitude of the planet is 0.4 throughout the month. There will be a partial eclipse of the sun on Nov. 23, invisible at Greenwich but visible over parts of Canada and America.

### Announcements

DR. FRANK HARTLEY, secretary of the Therapeutic Research Corporation of Great Britain, Ltd., has been appointed manager of the Scientific Services Department of British Drug Houses, Ltd.

A SERIES of discussion meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. under the general title "The Outlook in . . ." has been arranged by the Society for Visiting Scientists, 5 Old Burlington Street, London, W.1. The first meeting (chairman, Dr. C. F. A. Pantin) will deal with biology (October 30), and the second (chairman, Prof. N. F. Mott) with physics (November 20).