

it to bring strictly scientific information from the medical press to the editors of medical reviews and to medical practitioners.

World List of Scientific Periodicals

ACTIVE preparations are being made for the issue of a third edition of the "World List of Scientific Periodicals". The second edition of this invaluable scientific reference work, issued in 1934 and covering the years 1900-33, is now out of print though still in constant demand. It contains upwards of 33,000 titles of journals and includes the holdings of some hundred and eighty libraries in Great Britain and Ireland. The new edition, which is designed to include all the scientific and technical periodicals that appeared during the period 1900-47 as well as the holdings of additional libraries, will, therefore, be considerably larger. Librarians are being asked to co-operate as before by sending particulars of all those journals on their shelves that do not appear in the second edition or are shown there as having no location in Great Britain, to the Secretary, World List of Scientific Periodicals, c/o Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.8, from which office further information may be obtained.

"The Microtomist's Vademecum"

THE eleventh edition of "The Microtomist's Vademecum" is being prepared, and it is hoped that the new material will have been collected by early in the New Year. Laboratory workers are invited to submit accounts of methods which they believe should be included in the new edition to Prof. J. Brontë Gatensby, School of Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin; or to Prof. H. W. Beams, Department of Zoology, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

The Night Sky in December

FULL moon occurs on Dec. 8d. 17h. 52m., U.T., and new moon on Dec. 23d. 13h. 06m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Dec. 12d. 04h. Saturn 4° S.; Dec. 19d. 21h., Jupiter 1° S.; Dec. 20d. 02h., Venus 1° N.; Dec. 21d. 22h., Mercury $0^{\circ} 51'$. Mercury is a morning star, rising at 6h. on Dec. 1 and 7h. 20m. on Dec. 31, and attains its greatest westerly elongation on Dec. 9. Venus is conspicuous in the morning hours, rising at 5h. 54m., 4h. 50m. and 4h. 23m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. During this period its stellar magnitude varies between -4 and -4.3 . The planet attains its greatest brilliance on Dec. 23 when its stellar magnitude is about -4.4 . Mars is too close to the sun for favourable observation throughout the month. Jupiter, a morning star, rises at 5h. 23m., 4h. 50m. and 4h. 05m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter remains nearly -1.3 throughout December. Saturn can be seen during most of the night, rising at 20h. 28m., 19h. 30m. and 18h. 21m. on Dec. 1, 15 and 31 respectively. It is easily recognized as it is close to the star δ Canceris and cannot be mistaken for a star owing to the absence of twinkling. The following occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 take place in December: Dec. 1d. 18h. 36.0m., 69 Aqr. (*D*); Dec. 11d. 02h. 31.2m., 181 B.Gemi. (*R*); Dec. 11d. 04h. 13.6m., α Gemi. (*D*); Dec. 11d. 05h. 14.3m., \times Gemi. (*R*); Dec. 13d. 23h. 27.7m., 46 Leon. (*R*). *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance respectively, and

the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. Winter solstice is on Dec. 22d. 11h.

There will be a total eclipse of the moon on Dec. 8, visible at Greenwich. The circumstances of the eclipse are given below:

Moon enters penumbra	Dec. 8d. 15h. 11.8m.
Moon enters umbra	8 16 10.2
Total eclipse begins	8 17 18.8
Middle of eclipse	8 17 48.0
Total eclipse ends	8 18 17.2
Moon leaves umbra	8 19 25.8
Moon leaves penumbra	8 20 24.2

Announcements

SIR ROBERT ROBINSON, president of the Royal Society, will deliver the Faraday Lecture of the Chemical Society on July 16, 1947, during the Society's centenary celebrations. The Faraday Lectureship was founded in 1867 to commemorate Michael Faraday. In normal times it is delivered every three years, and is the highest honour which the Chemical Society has in its power to offer. The list of names of previous Faraday Lecturers include Dumas, Cannizzaro, von Hofmann, Wurtz, Helmholtz, Mendeléeff, Lord Rayleigh, Ostwald, Fischer, Richards, Arrhénius, Millikan, Willstätter, Bohr, Debye and Rutherford. The Lecture will be delivered in the Central Hall, Westminster, and will form the principal scientific event of the Chemical Society's centenary celebrations.

DR. L. H. LAMPITT will deliver the second Sir William Jackson Pope Memorial Lecture before the Royal Society of Arts on December 4 at 5 p.m.; he will speak on Sir William Pope's influence on scientific organisation.

THE thirty-first Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus arranged by the Physical Society is to be held in the Physics and Chemistry Departments of the Imperial College of Science and Technology and some adjoining galleries of the Science Museum, London; the provisional dates are April 9-12.

THE Radio Industry Council announces that Radiolympia—the National Radio Exhibition—will be resumed in 1947, the proposed dates being October 1-11. This exhibition will provide the first opportunity to display to the public and to the whole world the achievement of the radio industry of Great Britain in overcoming the many difficulties of reconversion to the design and production of radio, television, radar and electronic apparatus for civilian purposes.

THE wide scope of the work which has been undertaken by the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association is revealed by the contents of the annotated list of its published papers. This booklet, which is revised and published annually, gives abstracts of some five hundred reports covering many aspects of electrical equipment and electricity supply, safety problems, insulating and magnetic materials, and electrical instruments and measurement.

By a recent decision at the University of Cambridge, the professor of astrophysics is to be director of both the University Observatory and the Solar Physics Observatory. Prof. Harold Jeffreys, the newly appointed Plumian professor of astronomy and experimental philosophy, will thus not reside at the University Observatory.