

particular species is in proportion to its market value, and though the bulletins have no pretence to the encyclopaedic, the grower will find that commercial factors have all been dealt with adequately. A number of drawings by L. N. Staniland illustrate the bulletin on foliage; the others have a smaller number of half-tone photographs. Part 1 of the series dealt with spring flowers and flowers grown under glass; it appeared first in 1936. The three booklets now reprinted should provide a modern compendium for growers who may be attempting to restore pre-war floral glories.

#### Wellcome Marston Archæological Research Expedition

PUBLICATION of the excavations conducted by the late Mr. J. L. Starkey at Lachish (Tell ed-Duwir), Palestine, during 1932-38 is now being resumed. In order to compile a full bibliography, the editor would be glad to know of all articles and other published references to the archæological and linguistic material from the site, particularly those in foreign publications. Copies or extracts, with full references and short summaries of the contents, should be addressed to the Wellcome Marston Archæological Research Expedition, at the Institute of Archæology, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

#### Hydrogen-Cooled Turbo-Alternators

THE advantages of hydrogen cooling for large high-speed electrical machines have not up to now been exploited in Great Britain. Several manufacturers are at present engaged on the construction of turbo-alternator units employing hydrogen as a cooling agent. In a report on work and progress in 1946 issued by the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., it is stated that a 60,000 kW., 3,000 r.p.m. set is approaching completion and will be ready for testing shortly.

#### Prizes for Scientific Instrument Development

THE British Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association has received from Mr. W. Bowen a substantial capital sum, the income from which is to be used for the encouragement and development of invention, design, research processes and manufacturing technique in the scientific instrument industry. The Council of the Association has therefore drawn up a trust deed under which the income will be devoted to prizes for employees of members of the Association. This year, five prizes totalling approximately £125 will be awarded for papers coming within the scope of Mr. Bowen's gift. Papers must reach the Secretaries of the Association, Messrs. Binder, Hamlyn and Co., River Plate House, 12/13 South Place, London, E.C.2, from whom application forms can be obtained, not later than April 30.

#### Colonial Service: Appointments

THE following appointments have been made in the Colonial Service: I. G. Bulmer, to be assistant conservator of forests, Sierra Leone; Captain A. T. Crow, to be geologist, Gold Coast; Captain M. Maughan, to be computer, Lands, Mines and Surveys Department, Uganda; C. A. Gibson-Hill, to be assistant curator, Raffles Museum, Singapore; J. N. Milsum, senior agricultural officer, Malaya, to be chief field officer, Malaya; R. G. H. Wilshaw, senior chemist, Malaya, to be chief research officer, Malaya;

H. C. King, assistant conservator of forests, Mauritius, to be senior assistant conservator of forests, Sierra Leone.

#### The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 5d. 15h. 28m., U.T., and new moon on April 21d. 04h. 19m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: April 8d. 22h., Jupiter 0.6° N.; April 18d. 06h., Venus 4° N.; April 19d. 06h., Mercury 2° N.; April 19d. 07h., Mars 4° N.; April 27d. 13h., Saturn 4° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Mars on April 19d. 23h., Mercury being 1.8° S. Mercury rises about half an hour before sunrise at the beginning of April and attains its greatest westerly elongation on April 5. At the middle and end of the month the planet rises about 20 minutes and 10 minutes respectively before sunrise, and is not favourably placed for observation. Venus can be seen as a morning star, stellar magnitude -3.5, rising at 4h. 40m., 4h. 18m., and 3h. 56m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. The visible portion of the illuminated disk varies between 0.748 and 0.820 during April. Mars is too close to the sun for favourable observation. Jupiter can be seen late in the evening in the constellation of Libra, and rises at 22h. 45m. on April 1 and 20h. 35m. on April 30. Its stellar magnitude is -2, and its altitude is not more than 21° in the latitude of Greenwich as its declination is far south. Saturn can be seen up to the early morning hours in the constellation of Cancer, setting at 3h. 31m., 2h. 37m., and 1h. 40m., at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. The following occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 take place: April 23d. 20h. 28.4m., 247 B. Taur. (*D*); April 26d. 23h. 15.7m.,  $\alpha$  Gemi. (*D*); April 29d. 19h. 56.3m., 46 Leon. (*D*); *D* refers to disappearance, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. During April 18-24 the Lyrid meteor shower is active, the radiant being about R.A. 18h., Dec. +33°

#### Announcements

THE following appointments have been made in the University of Leeds: Dr. Philip George, as Brotherton research lecturer in physical chemistry; Dr. G. E. Pringle, as lecturer in inorganic and physical chemistry.

A COURSE of eight lectures on microscopy will be given in the Physics Department, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W.7, by B. K. Johnson on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m., commencing on April 29. The lectures will be accompanied by practical demonstrations and will include modern methods. They will be suitable for those having to use the microscope in technical practice. Application for admission should be made to the Registrar of the Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, S.W.7.

THE twenty-first National Colloid Symposium will be held at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, during June 18-20, 1947, under the auspices of the Division of Colloid Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. The programme will consist of two groups of papers; one of these will be built about the subject "Colloidal Electrolytes"; the other will be made up of papers on general colloid chemistry. Particulars of the meeting can be obtained from Prof. J. W. Williams, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, U.S.A.