

ments showed that at  $1.2^{\circ}$  K. the vapour pressure of helium-3 was thirty-five times that of helium-4; helium-3 was suitable for thermometry at low temperatures down to  $0.5^{\circ}$  K. and perhaps lower; the normal boiling point of helium-3 was  $3.2^{\circ}$  K., and by extrapolation to the critical temperature the critical pressure was 875 mm. of mercury. A value of  $0.041$  gm./c.c. for the critical density was deduced.

### Birds in London

IN April 1947 the Minister of Works appointed a Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks (England and Wales). For its general objectives the Committee decided to: (1) make suggestions for increasing the resident population of birds, their number and variety; (2) make suggestions for attracting migratory birds and for inducing unusual visitors to stay longer; (3) select competent persons as observers and reporters.

The Committee has now reported, and the results of its deliberations have been set out in a pamphlet, "Birds in London" (H.M. Stationery Office. 9d.). The first duty was the appointment and guidance of competent observers, and it is their statements which provide most of the material in the pamphlet. They show how successful has been the policy of developing the London bird sanctuaries, which were originally set up so long ago as 1923.

### Young Children

To mark the year of its silver jubilee, the Nursery School Association of Great Britain has begun the publication of a new quarterly journal. This follows the formation of the World Council of Early Childhood Education after an international meeting in Prague, in August 1948, and the new journal is intended to act as a link between all who are interested in the education of young children in any part of the world. Volume I of *Young Children* contains articles on the use of water play in the nursery, the stages of education which follow the nursery school and the links between home and school. The new journal has been produced unpretensively and should strengthen a side of education which has been much neglected by existing journals. It is doubtful, however, if the new journal will survive unless the price is reduced.

### Hundredth Meeting of the Genetical Society

THE Genetical Society of Great Britain, founded in 1919 by William Bateson, will hold its hundredth meeting during June 30–July 1, in Cambridge. To mark the occasion guest speakers will review the early days of genetics, and there will also be comprehensive demonstrations of genetical work now in progress in Great Britain. Genetical societies abroad have been informed of this meeting, to which all geneticists are cordially invited. Details may be obtained from the secretaries, G. Pontecorvo, Department of Genetics, University, Glasgow, W.2, or H. G. Callan, Institute of Animal Genetics, University, Edinburgh 9.

### The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 13d. 04h. 08m., U.T., and new moon on April 23d. 08h. 02m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: April 9d. 13h., Saturn  $3^{\circ}$  S.; April 20d. 03h., Jupiter  $5^{\circ}$  N.; April 29d. 21h., Mercury  $0.7^{\circ}$  S. Mercury is in superior conjunction on April 13 and is not favourably placed for observation until later in the month;

the planet sets 1h. 45m. after the sun on April 30, and can be seen in the western sky. Venus, in superior conjunction on April 16, is too close to the sun for favourable observation throughout the month. Mars rises about the same time as the sun during April, and cannot be observed. Jupiter is a morning star, rising at 3h. 20m., 2h. 30m. and 1h. 35m., at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and can be seen low down for a few hours before sunrise. Saturn sets in the early morning hours and is visible throughout the greater part of the night. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows: April 1d. 19h. 46 3m., 45 Arie. (D); April 7d. 00h. 31.4m., c Gemi. (D); April 11d. 20h. 56.3m.,  $\eta$  Virg. (D). D refers to disappearance, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. The Lyrid meteor shower is active about April 18–24. A total eclipse of the moon, visible at Greenwich, takes place on April 13, the circumstances of which are given as follows: moon enters penumbra, 01h. 31.6m.; enters umbra, 02h. 27.7m.; total eclipse begins, 03h. 28.0m.; middle of eclipse, 04h. 10.9m.; total eclipse ends, 04h. 53.8m.; moon leaves umbra, 05h. 54.1m.; leaves penumbra, 06h. 50.3m. A partial eclipse of the sun, visible at Greenwich, occurs on April 28, its magnitude being 0.41 at Greenwich, where it begins at 6h. 21m., reaches its greatest phase at 7h. 15m., and ends at 8h. 14m.

### Announcements

ON the joint recommendation of the presidents of the Royal Society and the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers has awarded the James Alfred Ewing Medal for 1948 to Sir Edward Appleton. The medal is awarded annually, and was founded in 1936 in memory of Sir Alfred Ewing. This award has come appropriately when Sir Edward has just taken up his appointment as vice-chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, a position which Sir Alfred Ewing occupied with such distinction.

DR. R. P. LINSTEAD, director of the Chemical Research Laboratory, Teddington, since 1945, has accepted the invitation of the University of London to succeed Sir Ian Heilbron as professor of organic chemistry and director of the Organic Chemistry Laboratories at the Imperial College of Science and Technology as from April 1, or as soon afterwards as can be arranged.

M. GASTON DUPOUX has been elected *correspondant* for the Section of General Physics of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to Prof. W. J. de Haas, who has been elected a foreign associate.

A DIVISION of the Royal Aeronautical Society has recently been formed in South Africa on the same lines as those formed in Australia and New Zealand in October 1948. Associate fellows will still be elected by the parent body of the Society in London; but otherwise these Divisions of the Commonwealth will possess a fully self-governing status and will be free to develop along their own national lines.

THE Royal Photographic Society will be holding its annual exhibition at 16 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, in two parts: part 1 (pictorial and colour), September 9–October 2; part 2 (scientific, Nature, medical, record, press, commercial, industrial, technical and radiographic), October 8–26. Admission will be free. Entries must be received by July 23, and entry forms may be obtained from the Secretary at the above address.