

and J. H. Thompson, geologists, Nigeria; H. R. Versey and V. A. Zans, geologists, Jamaica; P. A. Ashworth, geologist, Sierra Leone; P. Collette, geologist, North Borneo; J. J. Frankel, petrologist, Lands and Mines and Survey Department, Kenya; E. T. Haldemann, geologist, Tanganyika; M. Kosten, geologist, Gold Coast; J. W. Pallister, senior geologist, Uganda; L. R. Verney, chemist assayer, Nigeria; A. H. J. Colley, veterinary officer, Northern Rhodesia; E. P. Lindley, veterinary research officer, Nigeria; R. L. McKenzie and W. P. McMillan, veterinary officers, Uganda; W. E. Pearson, veterinary education officer, Nigeria; W. Plowright, veterinary officer (pathologist), Kenya; P. W. Swire, veterinary officer, Nigeria; G. H. Yeoman, veterinary officer, Tanganyika; J. C. M. Gardner, entomologist, Forest Department, Kenya; D. M. Montgomerie, assistant meteorologist, Nigeria; H. H. C. Pudden, sylviculturist, Kenya; F. G. Smith, beeswax officer, Department of Agriculture, Tanganyika; H. J. Steer, statistician, Trinidad.

The following changes of appointment are also announced: J. D. Broatch (assistant director of agriculture, Gold Coast), deputy director of agriculture (cocoa industry), Gold Coast; J. C. Eyre (deputy director of agriculture, Northern Rhodesia), director of agriculture, Northern Rhodesia; A. V. Gibberd (senior agricultural officer, Nigeria), assistant director of agriculture, Nigeria; E. A. Lewis (chief field zoologist, Kenya), director, East African Tsetse Reclamation Department, East African High Commission; A. S. McKinnon (agricultural officer, Somaliland Protectorate), assistant director, Agricultural and Veterinary Department, Somaliland Protectorate; J. M. Ward (senior agricultural officer, Gold Coast), assistant director of agriculture, Gold Coast; K. R. M. MacDonald (assistant conservator of forests, Nigeria), conservator of forests, Nigeria; G. M. Gates (veterinary officer, Nigeria), assistant director of veterinary services, Nigeria; H. M. Stuchbery (senior veterinary officer, Tanganyika), deputy director of veterinary services, Nyasaland; C. R. Turbet (senior veterinary officer, Fiji), senior animal husbandry officer, Nyasaland; F. R. Johnson (analytical chemist, Gold Coast), senior fisheries officer, Gold Coast.

The Night Sky in January

FULL MOON occurs on Jan. 4d. 07h. 48m., U.T., and new moon on Jan. 18d. 07h. 59m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Jan. 9d. 05h., Saturn 0.2° N.; Jan. 10d. 10h., Mars 2° N.; Jan. 19d. 14h., Venus 10° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Venus is in conjunction with Jupiter on Jan. 25d. 13h., Venus being 7.3° N. At the beginning of the month Mercury sets one and a half hours after the sun; later in the month, it rises before the sun—at 6h. 20m. on Jan. 31. Venus sets more than three hours after the sun on Jan. 1 and two and a half hours after the sun on Jan. 15, and is in inferior conjunction on Jan. 31. The stellar magnitude of the planet decreases during the month from -4.4 to -3.2 . Mars rises at 23h. 25m. and 22h. 10m. on Jan. 1 and 31 respectively, appearing a little east of γ Virginis in the latter case. Jupiter can be seen for a short time, setting two hours after the sun at the beginning of January, but is drawing closer to the sun and is not favourably placed for observation during the greater portion of the month. Saturn rises at 22h. 12m., 21h. 16m. and 20h. 10m., at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively,

and is of about magnitude 1 a little east of σ Leonis. The rings are practically closed now, their plane passing close to the earth. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows: Jan. 1d. 04h. 08.3m., 36 Taur. (*D*); Jan. 3d. 3h. 28.9m., 136 Taur. (*D*); Jan. 9d. 00h. 47.5m., σ Leon. (*D*); Jan. 9d. 01h. 43.2m., σ Leon. (*R*); Jan. 28d. 20h. 10.2m., χ Taur. (*D*); Jan. 31d. 18h. 45.8m., 47 Gemi. (*D*). *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. The earth reaches perihelion on Jan. 3.

Announcements

AN exhibition entitled "Research and Production" is to be held by the British Welding Research Association at its London headquarters at 29 Park Crescent, London, W.1, during February 7–11, between 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

THE forty-seventh exhibition of scientific instruments and materials, organised by the French Society of Physics, will take place during May 26–June 1 in the exhibition rooms at the Sorbonne (University of Paris). The office of the exhibition committee will be at 12 rue Cuvier, Paris 5.

THE London Section of the Institution of the Rubber Industry is organising a one-day conference on the behaviour and testing of rubber under dynamic conditions, to be held in London on March 17. Six papers will be read, and preprints are available at 4s. 6d. a set. The conference is open to all. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institution of Rubber Industry, 12 Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

THE Association of Scientific Workers, 15 Half Moon Street, London, W.1, has announced the formation of a new branch for social scientists, the purpose of which is to provide an organisation and meeting-place for the consideration of professional problems concerning salaries, the role of the social sciences in society, and the employment of social scientists.

AT the request of the International Scientific Film Association, the Sciences Committee of the Scientific Film Association is compiling a register of men of science in Great Britain, engaged in pure or applied research, who use cinematographic methods in their work. This register will form part of an international list, and the collected information will be available to persons in any country on request. Scientific workers who use cinematographic methods are invited to send the relevant details to Dr. E. L. Huppert, honorary secretary, Sciences Committee, Scientific Film Association, 4 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

UNDER the provisions of the Fulbright Programme, travel grants are available to citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies to go to America for academic or educational purposes, provided that they have the financial support in dollars for the visit and are affiliated to an American institution of higher learning. These grants cover the cost of travel from the candidate's home to America and return, and are available during June 1, 1950–May 31, 1951. Further particulars can be obtained from the United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom, 55 Upper Brook Street, London, W.1.

ERRATUM. In the communication "Oxidation of the Coagulation Factors" by Dr. L. A. Pálos in *Nature* of November 26, p. 926, the two illustrations should be interchanged.