

lecturer in mathematics, Technical Institute, Yaba, Nigeria; W. M. Bagshaw, assistant conservator of forests, British Guiana; J. M. Boyce and R. P. Farrer, assistant conservator of forests, Tanganyika; I. Brett, assistant conservator of forests, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland; G. W. G. Cottle, assistant conservator of forests, Fiji; A. E. G. Storrs, assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; K. W. Trenaman and G. H. S. Wood, assistant conservators of forests, Uganda; E. H. Baker, P. V. Caswell and J. M. Miller, geologists, Kenya; J. V. Buller, geologist, Sierra Leone; C. G. B. Du Bois and R. J. Johnson, geologist, Uganda; M. S. Garson, geologist, Nyasaland; J. Hamilton and G. Henderson, geologists, British Guiana; G. Jefford, mineralogist-chemist, Tanganyika; D. W. Powell, geologist, Water Development Department, Tanganyika; A. M. M. Spurr, geologist, Tanganyika; F. J. H. Adcock, W. G. Midowicz and P. Peterson, assistant meteorologists, Federation of Malaya; A. R. Green, veterinary officer, Tanganyika; G. J. Hawkins, ranger (fisheries statistician), Department of Game and Tsetse Control, Northern Rhodesia; R. T. Jarman, meteorological forecaster, Bermuda; F. I. Parnell, assistant director, Department of Game and Tsetse Control, Northern Rhodesia; I. G. Watterston and G. S. Young, provincial tsetse officer, Tanganyika; W. A. Stuart Williams, government statistician, Nigeria; P. C. Chambers (senior agricultural officer, Kenya), director of agriculture, Cyprus; R. G. Heath (senior agricultural officer, Federation of Malaya), chief field officer, Federation of Malaya; W. J. M. Irving (senior agricultural officer, Uganda), assistant director of agriculture, Uganda; J. C. Muir (director of agriculture, Tanganyika), member for agriculture and natural resources, Tanganyika; C. C. Skeete (director of agriculture, Windward Islands), director of agriculture, Barbados; F. H. Fitch (geologist, Federation of Malaya), senior geologist, Federation of Malaya; C. Raeburn (director of geological survey, Nigeria), commissioner on special duties, Nigeria; H. D. Tonking (senior pathologist, Mauritius), pathologist, Nigeria; H. M. Stuchbery (senior veterinary officer, Tanganyika), deputy director of veterinary services, Nyasaland; H. M. Johnston (malaria officer, Jamaica), malariologist, Jamaica.

The Night Sky in December

FULL moon occurs on Dec. 5d. 15h. 13m., U.T., and new moon on Dec. 19d. 18h. 55m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Dec. 12d. 23h., Saturn 0.3° S.; Dec. 13d. 09h., Mars 0.6° N.; Dec. 20d. 23h., Mercury 3° N.; Dec. 22d. 05h., Jupiter 4° N.; Dec. 22d. 23h., Venus 4° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Venus is in conjunction with Jupiter on Dec. 7d. 03h., Venus being 2° S. Mercury is unfavourably placed for observation during the first part of the month, but at the end of the month the planet sets 1h. 20m. after sunset and can be seen in the western sky for a short time. Venus sets more than three hours after the sun during December and is conspicuous in the western sky, attaining its greatest brilliancy (stellar magnitude -4.4) on Dec. 26. On this date the visible portion of the illuminated disk is only 0.26, but the planet is then only 38 million miles from the earth. Mars rises about midnight up to the middle of the month and at 23h. 27m. at the end of the month and can be seen in the morning hours in the constellation of Virgo fairly close to β Virginis about the middle of the month. Jupiter sets at 19h. 35m., 18h. 55m. and

18h. 13m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and is easily seen, lying low in the constellation of Capricornus. Saturn rises soon after midnight on Dec. 1 and at 22h. 17m. on Dec. 31, on which date it is stationary, and can be seen a little east of σ Leonis. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows: Dec. 3d. 22h. 53.6m., τ Arie. (*D*); Dec. 6d. 17h. 52.1m., 136 Taur. (*D*); Dec. 6d. 18h. 46.7m., 136 Taur. (*R*); Dec. 8d. 5h. 14.9m., 47 Gemi. (*R*); Dec. 9d. 0h. 32.4m., ω Canc. (*R*); Dec. 23d. 16h. 43.9m., \times Capr. (*D*); Dec. 25d. 17h. 10.6m., χ Aquar. (*D*); Dec. 31d. 19h. 18.0m., 104 B. Taur. (*D*). *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. Winter solstice occurs on Dec. 22d. 04h.

Announcements

AT the forthcoming meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in New York during December 26-31, the British-American Association Lecture (founded in 1938) will be delivered by Prof. G. B. B. M. Sutherland, lately of Cambridge and now professor of physics in the University of Michigan. The Lecture will be on "The Growing Importance of Infra-Red Studies in Physics, Chemistry and Biology". Dr. W. A. Macfarlane, of the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington, will give a talk on the organisation of science in Great Britain.

MR. J. R. BARROWMAN has been appointed lecturer in agriculture and farm director, University of Leeds, from January 1, 1950.

THE Council of the University of Sheffield has decided that, in view of their distinction in research and scholarship in their several fields of study, the title of reader be conferred on: W. H. Wilcockson, senior lecturer in geology; Dr. T. S. Stevens, senior lecturer in organic chemistry; Dr. A. S. C. Lawrence, senior lecturer in physical chemistry, to be reader in colloid chemistry.

MISS JETTA M. TROTTER, of the University of Otago, has been appointed a lecturer in the Department of Education of the International Wool Secretariat, Dorland House, 18-20 Regent Street, London, S.W.1. Miss Trotter took her degree in textiles and household science, and also qualified as a teacher. She has spent much time in New Zealand on sheep farms and has also acquired a knowledge of wool marketing problems at various wool-selling centres.

THE Seventh International Botanical Congress will be held in Stockholm during July 12-20, 1950. Communication No. 3 from the Organising Committee, containing information on time of final application, membership fee, costs of excursions, expenses in Sweden, visa and money regulations, etc., is now being distributed. It can be obtained from the Secretary-General, Dr. Ewert Åberg, Uppsala 7 Sweden.

CHRISTMAS lectures for boys, primarily between the ages of thirteen and seventeen, are being arranged by the Institution of Civil Engineers. The first will be given by H. Shirley Smith, on "The Wonders of Big Bridges", on December 30, at 3 p.m.; the second will be given by C. W. Knight, on "The Building of Dams" on January 2. Applications for tickets, which are free, should be made to the Secretary of the Institution, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.