

and resulted in the collection of 2,043 specimens of Miocene fossils. On the specimens, 134 represent the remains of primates (anthropoid apes, cercopithecoid monkeys and lemuroids). The remainder of the collection includes *Dinotherium*, rodents, shrews and fossilized fruits, seeds, etc. In August, a number of islands situated north and west of Rusinga were explored, but no Miocene exposures were found in them. In September, the fossil beds which had been reported by Prof. R. M. Shackleton in the Maralal-Rumuruti area were examined; but they proved disappointing, since the fossils in them were found to consist mainly of very fragmentary remains of fish, crocodile and tortoise. Excavations at Songhor led to further discoveries of isolated teeth of the large species of *Proconsul* (*P. major*), of which the type specimen was found in 1948.

#### Indian Heart Journal

RECORDS of the progress of science and medicine in India continue to find publication, and the first issue of the *Indian Heart Journal* (pp. 100; 1949; Cardiological Society of India, 67 Dharamtala Street, Calcutta 13; 7.8 Rs. or 15s.) launches a new publication devoted to the study of the heart and circulation and allied subjects. This first issue contains six original articles, all by Indian authors, together with some abstracts of current literature and a book review. Well produced and convenient to handle, the journal will put cardiologists all over the world in touch with the work of their colleagues in India.

#### Foreign Scholarships for British Students

A NUMBER of foreign governments and universities are offering scholarships to British students for the year 1950-51, most of the scholarships providing for a year of postgraduate study in the foreign country concerned. Arrangements are made through the British Council. The countries which are continuing schemes already in operation are: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Universities of Cologne and Munster), Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Persia (University of Teheran) and Sweden. In addition, three new scholarships, each valued at £640, are being offered by Brazil, and another is tenable at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. The closing date for applications is March 10, and the awards will probably be announced by the beginning of the normal university summer term. Details of these scholarships are contained in a booklet issued by the British Council and obtainable from the Controller, Education Division, British Council, 3 Hanover Street, London, W.1.

#### University of Birmingham

THE following announcements have recently been made in the University of Birmingham: W. B. Watson has been appointed lecturer in mining; R. W. Stuart Mitchell has resigned his lectureship in mechanical engineering on being appointed chief research engineer, Diesel Engine Division, English Electric Co., Ltd.; the degree of doctor of science, in the subject indicated, has been conferred on R. S. W. Thorne (industrial fermentation) and H. B. Whittington (geology).

#### The Night Sky in March

FULL moon occurs on March 4d. 10h. 34m., U.T., and new moon on March 18d. 15h. 20m. The fol-

lowing conjunctions with the moon take place: March 4d. 16h., Saturn 0.3° N.; March 6d. 06h., Mars 4° N.; March 14d. 18h., Venus 9° N.; March 15d. 20h., Jupiter 3° N.; March 31d. 23h., Saturn 0.1° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Jupiter on March 1d. 15h., Mercury being 1.2° S. Mercury is too close to the sun for favourable observation and is in superior conjunction on March 28. Venus is a morning star, stellar magnitude -4.3, and rises about 1½ hours before the sun throughout the month. The visible portion of the illuminated disk increases from 0.2 to 0.4, and on March 6 the planet attains its greatest brilliancy. Mars, in the constellation of Virgo, rises at 20h. 10m. and 17h. 10m. at the beginning and end of the month respectively, and is in opposition on March 23. Jupiter, a morning star, is too close to the sun for favourable observation until the end of the month, when it rises about an hour before the sun. Saturn, in opposition on March 7, is visible throughout the night in the constellation of Leo. An annular eclipse of the sun on March 18 is invisible at Greenwich but can be seen over portions of the southern hemisphere. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows: March 7d. 03h. 00-9m., α Virg. (*D*); March 7d. 03h. 38-1m., α Virg. (*R*); March 23d. 20h. 30-2m., 23 Taur. (*D*); March 23d. 21h. 54-5m., 27 Taur. *m*, (*D*); March 26d. 23h. 40-6m., 49 Auri (*D*); March 28d. 19h. 20-3m., λ Canc. (*D*); March 31d. 21h. 22m., γ Leon. (*D*). *R* and *D* refer to reappearance and disappearance respectively, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. Vernal equinox is on March 21d. 05h.

#### Announcements

THE Principal Trustees of the British Museum have appointed Prof. G. R. de Beer, professor of embryology at University College, London, to be director of the British Museum (Natural History) with effect from May 1, 1950, in succession to Mr. N. B. Kinnear, who is retiring.

THE Institution of the Rubber Industry is organising a conference on "Rubber as an Engineering Material", to be held at the Overseas League (Headquarters), Park Place, St. James's, London, S.W.1, on March 17. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Institution of the Rubber Industry, 12 Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

THE Royal Statistical Society has recently received an anonymous benefaction of £30,000 to enable it to acquire premises worthy of its history, traditions and scientific work as a learned society. It has outgrown its present premises at 4 Portugal Street, London, W.C.2, and for some years has been seeking a building in which its large and valuable library may be housed and in which its work can be adequately carried out. The growing recognition of the importance of statistics in government, business and science may be gauged by the increase in the number of fellows from a thousand in 1938 to more than two thousand at the present time.

THE Congress of the International Society of Haematology will be held in Cambridge during August 21-26, 1950. Sessions will be devoted to discussions of anemias, leukemias, blood coagulation and immuno-haematology. Applications to attend the Congress should be sent at once to the Congress Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Martin Hynes, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge.