

the first Bernard Dyer Memorial Lecture was delivered by Sir John Russell.

The following officers and members of Council were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, G. Taylor; *Past Presidents serving on the Council*, L. Eynon, E. B. Hughes, G. Roche Lynch and G. W. Monier-Williams; *Vice-Presidents*, D. C. Garratt, J. G. A. Griffiths and J. R. Nicholls; *Honorary Treasurer*, J. H. Hamence; *Honorary Secretary*, K. A. Williams; *Other Members of Council*, A. L. Bacharach, H. H. Bagnall, J. Haslam, D. W. Kent-Jones, A. A. Smales and E. Voelcker. R. C. Chirnside, E. T. Illing, J. King, C. J. Regan and N. Strafford remain on the Council from the 1949 election, and the following chairmen of sections and groups are *ex-officio* members of the Council: J. G. Sherratt (North of England Section), J. Sword (Scottish Section), R. Belcher (Microchemistry Group), B. S. Cooper (Physical Methods Group) and N. T. Gridge-man (Biological Methods Group).

Institute of Welding: Spring Meeting

THE spring meeting of the Institute of Welding will be held at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham 3, during April 25-28, with one day (April 27) to be spent at the Victoria Hotel, Wolverhampton. Some technical papers will be read on April 26 and 27; but a large proportion of the programme will be devoted to excursions and visits to places of technical and general interest. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Institute of Welding, 2 Buckingham Palace Gardens, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

Royal Photographic Society: Officers for 1950

THE annual general meeting of the Royal Photographic Society was held on March 21, when the following elections were made: *President*, L. V. Chilton; *Vice-Presidents*, I. D. Wratten and Bertram Sinkinson; *Treasurer*, Harry Abbott; *Ordinary Members of Council*, Gilbert Adams, S. W. Bowler, G. Scott Bushe, K. H. Gaseltine, P. Hansell, Miss M. F. Harker, R. G. Hopkinson, J. Dudley Johnston, G. A. Jones, S. D. Jouhar, W. A. Lynch, A. Pearlman, A. L. M. Sowerby, A. A. Walker, Harold White.

The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 2d. 20h. 49m., U.T., and new moon on April 17d. 08h. 25m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: April 2d. 00h., Mars 3° N.; April 12d. 13h., Jupiter 3° N.; April 13d. 01h., Venus 4° N.; April 19d. 04h., Mercury 1° S.; April 28d. 07h., Saturn 0.02° N.; April 28d. 23h., Mars 0.8° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Venus is in conjunction with Jupiter on April 5d. 11h., Venus being 2.3° N. Mercury, an evening star, sets at 18h. 50m. and 21h. 07m. at the beginning and end of the month respectively, but in the early portion of April is too close to the sun for favourable observation. Venus is a morning star, rising an hour and a half before the sun on April 1 and about an hour before the sun on April 30, and can be seen for a short period before sunrise, stellar magnitude -4, half its illuminated disk being visible on April 12. Jupiter, a morning star, can be seen after the middle of the month when it rises about an hour and a half before the sun; but it lies low in the heavens and is not well placed for observation. Saturn, in the constellation of Leo, sets in the early morning hours and can be seen throughout the night; the ring is now easily seen with a

small telescope. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are: April 6d. 01h. 47.3m., λ Scor. (*R*); April 6d. 03h. 48.9m., π Scor. (*D*); April 20d. 19h. 42.8m., χ Taur. (*D*); April 23d. 22h. 19.0m., 47 Gemi. (*D*). *R* and *D* refer to reappearance and disappearance respectively, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. On April 2 there is a total eclipse of the moon, visible at Greenwich:

Moon enters penumbra	April 2d. 18h. 09.3m.
Moon enters umbra	2 19 09.0
Total eclipse begins	2 20 29.5
Middle of eclipse	2 20 44.1
Total eclipse ends	2 20 58.7
Moon leaves umbra	2 22 19.2
Moon leaves penumbra	2 23 18.8

Announcements

THE Council of the Linnean Society of London has selected Mr. H. N. Ridley for the award of the Linnean Medal for the year 1950. The presentation will be made at the anniversary meeting on May 24. The Linnean Medal is awarded to an eminent biologist as an expression of the Society's estimate of his services to science.

A NEW quarterly review, *Maveg*, is to be published shortly. The journal, the name of which is an abbreviation of *Materiae Vegetabiles*, will deal with all aspects of plant products useful to man. Articles will be published in various languages; but if not in English then an English summary will be attached. Further information can be obtained from *Maveg*, Zollikofer and Co., Imprimerie et Editions, Gutenbergstrasse 13, St. Gallen, Switzerland.

THE annual conference of the X-Ray Analysis Group of the Institute of Physics, to be held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, during April 13-14, will be devoted to a discussion of "The Production and Application of High-Intensity X-ray Beams". The several sessions will be devoted to high-power X-ray tubes, monochromators and collimators, techniques of X-ray analysis, and application of high-intensity X-ray beams. Prof. A. Guinier, of the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Paris, will give an evening lecture on "The Role of High-Intensity Beams in the Progress of X-ray Analysis". Further information can be obtained from the Deputy Secretary, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is offering the following scholarships to young persons who are working in agriculture or who are the children of agricultural or rural workers: for those over the age of seventeen, ten senior scholarships, tenable at university departments of agriculture, or agricultural colleges, for degree or diploma courses in an agricultural subject, or at veterinary colleges for courses in veterinary science; for those under seventeen, six extended junior scholarships and sixty junior scholarships, tenable at farm institutes or similar institutions, for courses, not exceeding one year in duration, in agriculture, horticulture, dairying or poultry husbandry. Forms of application, to be returned by April 30, can be obtained from the Secretary (Room 314), 1 Cambridge Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, or from the education offices of county councils.

ERRATUM. In the letter on "Dispersion of the Birefringence in Barium Titanate", by Cross *et al.*, in *Nature* of March 18, p. 440, the ordinates of the graph (Fig. 2) are incorrectly labelled; the observed birefringences are one-tenth of those shown.