

are open to graduates of universities outside the British Commonwealth. The booklet may be obtained from the Secretary, Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, 5 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

#### Royal Astronomical Society : Dublin Meeting

THE Royal Astronomical Society is to hold a meeting in the rooms of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, during September 21-23. An ordinary meeting for the discussion of papers will be held on September 22. A discussion on problems of solar physics, some of which will be concerned with matters relating to the forthcoming solar eclipse, has been arranged by the Dunsink Observatory, and will be held on September 21, under the chairmanship of Prof. H. B. Brück. On September 23 there will be a Geographical Discussion on "Planetary Atmospheres". A popular lecture, arranged by the Royal Astronomical Society in co-operation with the Irish Astronomical Society and University College, Dublin, will be given by Sir Harold Spencer Jones in University College, Dublin, on September 22; Sir Harold will speak on "Time". There will be a reception at Iveagh House by the Minister of External Affairs on September 21, and excursions to Dunsink and Armagh Observatories and to other places have been arranged.

#### Building Documentation Conference, Paris

THE first general assembly of the International Council for Building Documentation will meet in Paris, at the invitation of the French Government, during October 23-28. Subjects for discussion will be: exchange of abstracts and information; terminology; classification; format and lay-out of publications; data sheets; the needs of the users of information. The United Kingdom delegation and observers will be nominated by the British Building Documentation Committee (Secretariat: Ministry of Works Library, Lambeth Bridge House, London, S.E.1), from whom further particulars may be obtained.

#### Joint Commission for Spectroscopy

THE Joint Commission for Spectroscopy, the purpose of which is to promote and co-ordinate original research in atomic and molecular spectra, is a joint commission of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and of the International Astronomical Union. It was formed in 1949 and consists of twelve members, six drawn from each of the two Unions. It is under the auspices of the International Council of Scientific Unions and is supported by Unesco subventions. The first meeting of the Commission will be held in conjunction with the Faraday Society Conference on "Spectroscopy and Molecular Structure" which will take place in Cambridge during September 25-28 (see *Nature*, July 15, p. 97). On the three evenings of September 26-28 the Commission will hold technical discussions in Trinity College. On September 29 a short symposium will take place in the Cavendish Laboratory. All who are interested in the work of the Commission are invited to participate. Lodgings, etc., may be reserved through the Secretary of the Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1. The provisional secretary of the Joint Commission for Spectroscopy is Prof. C. J. Bakker, Zeeman-Laboratory, Pl. Muidergracht 4, Amsterdam-C, The Netherlands.

#### Announcements

PROF. L. JÁNOSSY, senior professor in charge of the Cosmic Ray Section of the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, has accepted an invitation to a professorship in the University of Budapest (his native town). He was formerly at the University of Manchester, and moved to Dublin in March 1947. He left for Budapest on August 11.

LORD DERBY will open the new laboratories of the British Hat and Allied Feltmakers Research Association at Stanley House, Manchester Road, Fairfield, Manchester, on September 19 at 11.30 a.m.

THE ninety-fifth annual exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society was opened by Mr. L. V. Chilton on September 14 in the Society's House, 16 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7 (close to the Albert Hall); the exhibition is open to the public, without charge, until October 15 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5.30 p.m.; Sundays, 2.30-5.30 p.m.).

THE tenth series of postgraduate lectures, arranged by the Oil and Colour Chemists' Association, will be held this year at Manchester (at Cheetham Town Hall, Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester 8) on September 29, October 6 and October 13 at 6.30 p.m., when Dr. A. S. C. Lawrence will give a course of three lectures on "Topics in Colloid Science". The fee for the course is 10s., and applications for tickets should be made to Mr. John Hannaford, Secretary and Treasurer, O.C.C.A., Aldwych House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2.

A SCIENTIFIC conference on milk production, to be held in Paris during November 28-30, is being organised by the Centre National de Coordination des Études et Recherches sur la Nutrition et l'Alimentation. The conference will follow the lines of those on bread and on food fats held in 1948 and 1949 respectively. The programme is in three sections: production and genetics; production and feeding; and pathology and hygiene of production. Further particulars of the "Journées Scientifiques de la Production du Lait" can be obtained from the Centre National de Coordination des Études et Recherches sur la Nutrition et l'Alimentation, 71 Boulevard Péreire, Paris (17<sup>e</sup>).

A SUMMER school on electrical resistance strain-gauge methods, organised by the University of Cambridge Engineering Department jointly with the Stress Analysis Group of the Institute of Physics, will be held in Cambridge during September 25-30. The school will be run on the same lines as those held in 1948 and 1949, and its purpose is to provide graduates in engineering, physics or allied subjects, who have not previously used such strain gauges, with the introductory theory to the subject and practical instruction. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the honorary secretary of the Stress Analysis Group, Mr. E. K. Frankl, Engineering Laboratory, Trumpington Street, Cambridge.

ERRATUM. In the communication entitled "Thermal Decomposition of Potassium Perchlorate" in *Nature* of July 15, p. 109, column 2, line 4 from bottom, for "nitrate" read "chlorate"; the formula below the graph should be  $KClO$  and not  $KClO_2$  as printed.