

the professional training of social workers. In addition, it presents a comparative analysis of the non-curricular and curricular aspects of schools of social work in forty-one countries; the general body of knowledge imparted to social work students; the general pedagogical methods used in the preparation of social workers; the administrative and financial aspects of schools of social work; the duration of the period of study; the relative importance assigned to the subjects included within the curriculum; and the methods by which theoretical knowledge and technical proficiency are imparted. The study also reviews United Nations' activities relating to training for social work and offers suggestions for future action in the national and international fields. Three useful appendixes contain statements of the definition of social work and the social worker received from various countries; a descriptive summary of the organization and programme of study of one school of social work in each of forty-one countries; and a directory of schools of social work in all countries which have established such schools. Copies of the document may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 15s.

National Research Development Corporation

THE President of the Board of Trade has made three new appointments to the membership of the Corporation, and has re-appointed those members whose initial period of service recently expired. The Corporation now comprises: Sir Percy Mills (*chairman*); Lord Halsbury (*managing director*); Prof. P. M. S. Blackett; Prof. E. C. Dodds; Sir John Duncanson; Sir Edward Hodgson; W. E. P. Johnson; J. F. Lockwood; Sir Rowland Smith; Sir Edward de Stein; and Sir Henry Tizard. The new members are: Mr. Lockwood, managing director of Henry Simon, Ltd., and a director of other engineering companies; Sir Rowland Smith, chairman of the Ford Motor Co. and chairman, or a director, of a number of associated companies; and Sir Henry Tizard, chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy and the Defence Research Policy Committee.

"Blue Sun and Moon"

REFERRING to their communication under this title on p. 554 of this issue, Dr. William Paul and Prof. R. V. Jones write: "Since our communication was written, Mr. R. R. Wilson, of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, has given an account, before Section A (Mathematics and Physics) of the British Association during the recent Edinburgh meeting, of his observations on the blue sun of September 26, 1950, and his deductions. Mr. Wilson succeeded in making spectrophotometric measurements of I_N/I_B for various wave-lengths, where I_B and I_N are the intensities of the blue and normal suns. The observed curve of $\log I_N/I_B$ against wave-length shows a minimum in the blue. Mr. Wilson has compared his results with theoretical curves as calculated by Van de Hulst and others and deduces a numerical value of $d(m-1)$, where d is the diameter of the scattering particles and m is the refractive index. He has discussed the probable nature of the scattering particles."

The Night Sky in October

NEW moon occurs on Oct. 1d. 01h. 57m., U.T., and full moon on Oct. 15d. 00h. 51m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Oct. 14d.

04h., Jupiter 5° S.; Oct. 26d. 17h., Mars 2° N.; Oct. 26d. 23h., Venus 0.04° S.; Oct. 28d. 18h., Saturn 5° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mars is in conjunction with Regulus on Oct. 3d. 03h., Mars being 0.9° N. Mercury rises about an hour before the sun on October 1 and is in superior conjunction on October 13; it is too close to the sun to be seen during the remainder of the month. Venus, a morning star, rises at 3h. 10m., 2h. 40m. and 2h. 35m., on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively. The stellar magnitude of the planet is -4.3, and the visible portion of the disk varies between 0.20 and 0.42. Mars rises soon after 2h. throughout October and can be seen in the constellation Leo, close to Regulus early in the month. Jupiter is in opposition on October 3, rising early in the evening throughout the month and setting at 6h. 10m., 5h. 0m. and 3h. 50m., on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Saturn is too close to the sun in the early part of the month to be seen but rises 1h. 20m. before sunrise on October 15 and 2h. 40m. before sunrise on October 31. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows: Oct. 10d. 17h. 57.4m., δ Capr. (*D*); Oct. 10d. 18h. 50.4m., δ Capr. (*R*); Oct. 17d. 23h. 14.2m., q Taur. (*D*); Oct. 17d. 23h. 36.5m., 20 Taur. (*D*); Oct. 17d. 23h. 57.7m., 16 Taur. (*R*); Oct. 18d. 0h. 28.3m., q Taur. (*R*); Oct. 18d. 0h. 32.6m., 20 Taur. (*R*); Oct. 18d. 0h. 55.9 m., 21 Taur. (*R*). (*D*) and (*R*) refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively, and the times refer to observations made at Greenwich. Strong moonlight towards the middle of the month will prevent good observations of the Orionid meteor shower.

Announcements

PROF. W. T. ASTBURY, professor of biomolecular structure, University of Leeds, has been elected a corresponding member of the Istituto Lombardo di Scienze e Lettere.

THE Lord President of the Council has appointed Sir Eric Rideal, professor of physical chemistry in King's College, University of London, to be a member of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research from October 1. Prof. H. W. Melville retires from the Council on September 30, on completion of his period of service.

AN informal conference on cationic polymerization and related topics will be held in the University College of North Staffordshire during March 24-26, 1952. Intending contributors should send the titles of their papers not later than October 31, and summaries not later than January 15, 1952. The fee, comprising also meals and accommodation, will be approximately £3. All communications should be addressed to Dr. P. H. Plesch, The College, Keele, Staffs.

THE Meldola Medal is the gift of the Society of Maccabees and is normally awarded annually. The next award will be made early in 1952 to the chemist who, being a British subject and less than thirty years of age on December 31, 1951, shows the most promise, as indicated by his or her published chemical work brought to the notice of the Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry before December 31. Communications should be addressed to the President, Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1, the envelope being marked "Meldola Medal".