

particulars and application forms can be obtained from the Research Council of Israel, P.O.B. 607, Jerusalem.

**Institute of Metals : Officers**

THE following have been elected officers of the Institute of Metals for the year 1952-53, and will take office on March 25. *President*: Dr. C. J. Smithells, director of research, British Aluminium Company, Ltd., Gerrards Cross, Bucks; *Vice-Presidents*: Mr. G. L. Bailey, director, British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association, London; Dr. S. F. Dorey, chief engineer surveyor, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, London; *Honorary Treasurer*: Mr. E. H. Jones, director and general manager (Bristol), Capper Pass and Son, Ltd., Bristol.

**The Night Sky in February**

FULL moon occurs on Feb. 11d. 00h. 28m., U.T., and new moon on Feb. 25d. 09h. 16m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Feb. 15d. 14h., Saturn 7° N.; Feb. 17d. 15h., Mars 7° N.; Feb. 23d. 03h., Mercury 3° N.; Feb. 28d. 08h., Jupiter 5° S. Mercury, in superior conjunction on February 22, is too close to the sun during the month for favourable observation. Venus, a morning star, rises at 5h. 45m., 6h. and 5h. 50m. on February 1, 15 and 29, respectively. The stellar magnitude varies between -3.5 and -3.4, and the visible portion of the illuminated disk between 0.80 and 0.87. Mars rises at 0h. 30m., 0h. 10m. and 23h. 40m. on February 1, 15 and 29, respectively; about the middle of the month and for some time later, the planet lies a little south of  $\alpha$  Libræ. Jupiter is an evening star, setting at 22h. 10m., 21h. 35m. and 20h. 55m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Saturn, an evening star, rises at 22h. 35m. on February 1 and at 20h. 40m. on February 29, and can be seen a little north of  $\theta$  Virginis throughout the month. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Feb. 3d. 23h. 12.6m., 7 Taur. *m.* (*D*); Feb. 27d. 18h. 28.2m., 51 Pisc. (*D*). *D* refers to disappearance. A partial eclipse of the moon takes place during February 10-11, visible at Greenwich. The magnitude of the eclipse is 0.088, taking the moon's diameter as 1. The circumstances of the eclipse are as follows:

Moon enters penumbra	Feb. 10d.	22h.	06.2m.
Moon enters umbra	11	00	03.3
Middle of eclipse	11	00	39.3
Moon leaves umbra	11	01	15.3
Moon leaves penumbra	11	03	12.4

A total eclipse of the sun takes place on February 25 and is visible as a partial eclipse at Greenwich, where its magnitude is 0.11. At Greenwich the eclipse begins at Feb. 25d. 08h. 42m. and ends at 9h. 47m., the greatest phase being at 9h. 14m. The line of totality commences close to the equator and about midway between the American and African coasts, passing over Libreville, Bangui, Khartoum, Basra and Khiva, and ending at Semipalatinsk at 11h. 44.2m.

**Announcements**

By an order of the Committee of Privy Council for Medical Research, the Earl of Limerick has been appointed a member of the Medical Research Council; the Council has appointed him to be its chairman in succession to the late Viscount Addison.

SIR ANDREW McCANCE has been appointed chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial

Research in succession to the retiring chairman, Sir Henry Guy.

LORD HANKEY has been elected to the Athenæum under the provisions of Rule II of the Club, which empowers the annual election by the Committee of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature or the arts, or for their public services.

THE Institute of Biology is arranging a symposium on "Biology as a Career" at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, on April 10, at which authoritative speakers will give present and future trends of biological development and opportunities. Further particulars will be available in due course from the Institute of Biology, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, and F. T. Walker, local secretary for Scotland of the Institute, Institute of Seaweed Research, Inveresk, Midlothian.

THE East Midland Centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers is arranging a convention on "Contacts", which will be held at Loughborough College during April 7-9 and which will be open to non-members of the Institution. The programme will be divided into two sessions: the first on light-duty contacts in theory and practice; and the second on heavy-duty contacts, including contactors and sliding contacts (brushes). Further details can be obtained from Mr. R. G. L. Ryan, Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., Loughborough, Leics., or from Dr. J. H. Mitchell and Mr. R. C. Woods, Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Nottingham.

ON the invitation of the Royal Anthropological Institute, the International Congress of Americanists will hold its thirteenth session in Cambridge during August 18-23, accommodation being provided in one or more colleges of the University. This date has been arranged in consultation with the organizers of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, to be held in Vienna, so as to permit those who so desire to attend both Congresses. Further details can be obtained from the Joint Secretaries of the Organizing Committee, International Congress of Americanists, c/o University Museum of Archæology and Ethnology, Downing Street, Cambridge.

UNDER the provisions of the Fulbright Programme, travel grants are available to citizens of the United Kingdom and British Colonies to go to the United States for academic or educational purposes, provided that they have the financial support in dollars for the visit and are affiliated to an American institution of higher learning. The Fulbright grants cover the cost of travel from the candidate's home to America and return, and are available during June 1952-May 31, 1953. Applications must be submitted by March 15 (those travelling between June 1 and July 31) or June 15 (those travelling after August 1). Further details can be obtained from the United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom, 55 Upper Brook Street, London, W.1.

IN *Nature* of December 29, p. 1106, a paragraph was printed referring to a Medical Research Council publication on pneumoconiosis. We regret to find, however, that the concluding sentence of this paragraph referred to another Medical Research Council publication, namely, "The Application of Scientific Methods to Industrial and Service Medicine", Proceedings of a Conference held from March 29th to March 31st, 1950 (H.M. Stationery Office, 1951; 3s. net).