

Botanical Society of France. Besides the plenary meetings, the Congress will consist of section meetings which will be divided into two categories: those devoted to organized colloquia on definite topics; and those devoted to sundry communications. For the former, general reports not exceeding twenty thousand letters and original communications not exceeding five thousand letters, and for the latter, summaries not exceeding two thousand letters, may be submitted, and they should all be sent to the respective section secretaries before January 15, 1954. In addition to the Congress events, there will be meetings of a number of Commissions of the International Union of Biological Sciences. The official languages of the Congress will be English and French, but if sufficient advance notice is given, interpreters can be arranged for those who may wish to speak in German, Russian or Spanish. A large number of excursions are being organized, some of which, including those to North and West Africa, will take place before the Congress, and early notice is requested of those who wish to participate. The fee for those taking part in the Congress will be 5,000 francs (about £5 or 15 dollars), with half-rates for students and for those merely accompanying participants. All correspondence on matters not relating to the individual sections should be addressed to the Secrétariat Général, 8^e Congrès de Botanique, C.N.A.M., 292 rue Saint-Martin, Paris 3^e, from which registration forms, programmes and all further information can be obtained.

The Night Sky in September

NEW moon occurs on Sept. 8d. 07h. 47m., U.T., and full moon on Sept. 23d. 04h. 15m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Sept. 1d. 16h., Jupiter 4° S.; Sept. 5d. 03h., Venus 0.3° N.; Sept. 6d. 17h., Mars 3° N.; Sept. 11d. 22h., Saturn 8° N.; Sept. 29d. 03h., Jupiter 4° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions of planets with bright stars occur: Sept. 13d. 01h., Mars 0.8° N. of Regulus; Sept. 23d. 09h., Venus 0.4° N. of Regulus; Sept. 29d. 17h., Mercury 1.6° N. of Spica. Mercury, a morning star at the beginning of the month, is in superior conjunction on September 7, afterwards becoming an evening star, but is too close to the sun during the month for favourable observation. Venus, a morning star, rises at 1h. 55m., 2h. 30m. and 3h. 10m. on September 1, 15 and 30, respectively; its stellar magnitude is about -3.4, and the visible portion of the illuminated disk varies between 0.78 and 0.86. Mars, a morning star, rises about 3h. 30m. during the month and can be seen in the constellation Leo, through which it has an eastward movement; towards the middle of September it lies a little north of Regulus. Jupiter rises at 22h. 45m., 22h. and 21h. on September 1, 15 and 30, respectively, its stellar magnitude being about -2. During the month it moves eastward from north of ζ Tauri towards the constellation Gemini, and this movement is easily detected. Saturn sets at 20h. 15m. on the first of the month, and an hour after sunset during the middle of the month, after which it draws too close to the sun for favourable observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being as if made at Greenwich: Sept. 27d. 2h. 30.9m., 17 Taur. (D); Sept. 27d. 3h. 05m., 23 Taur. (D); Sept. 27d. 3h. 33.5m., 17 Taur. (R); Sept. 27d. 3h. 43.1m., η Taur. (D); Sept. 27d. 4h. 15.5m., 23 Taur. (R); Sept. 27d. 4h. 37.5m., 27

Taur. m. (D); Sept. 27d. 4h. 57.6m., η Taur. (R); Sept. 28d. 23h. 50.1m., 125 Taur. (R); D and R refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively. Autumnal equinox takes place on September 23d. 08h.

Announcements

THE Institution of Metallurgists announces that the Duke of Edinburgh will open the Platinum Metals Exhibition organized by the Institution at Grosvenor House, London, on October 19. The Exhibition is being held to mark the 150th anniversary of William Hyde Wollaston's announcement of his discovery of palladium, and will be open to the public during October 22-24.

MR. WILLIAM E. MILLER, editor of the *Wireless World*, has been re-elected president of the British Institution of Radio Engineers for a second term of office. The senior award of the Institution, the Clerk Maxwell Premium, has been awarded for 1952 to Dr. Charles Süsskind, of the Microwave Laboratory, Stanford University, for his paper on "Obstacle-Type Artificial Dielectrics for Microwaves", published in the Institution's *Journal* of January 1952.

A FARADAY Society General Discussion on "Dyeing and Tanning" will be held in the Department of Chemistry, University of Leeds, during September 8-10. The Discussion will be divided into two parts, devoted to rate processes and structural effects, respectively, and will be preceded by a general introduction by Sir Eric Rideal. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1.

THE British Society of Rheology is arranging a symposium on "The Mixing of Thick Liquids, Pastes and Slurries", to be held in the Main Chemistry Lecture Theatre of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on September 25. The symposium will be preceded by the annual general meeting of the Society. Admission to the symposium is free, without ticket. Further information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, British Rheological Society, Flat H 12, Sloane Avenue Mansions, London, S.W.3.

THE eleventh annual meeting of the Electron Microscope Society of America will be held at the Pocono Manor Inn, Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania, during November 5-7. Programmes with abstracts of papers to be presented will be available after October 15 from the programme chairman, A. R. T. Denues, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, 444 East 68th Street, New York 21, N.Y. Local arrangements are being made by Kenneth S. McCarty, Veterans Administration Hospital, 130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, New York.

IN the article entitled "International Electro-Acoustics Congress" in *Nature* of August 1, p. 189, it is stated that the International Committee of Acoustics is "an offshoot of Unesco". This is not correct. The Committee belongs to the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, and it received a subvention this year from Unesco through that Union and the International Council of Scientific Unions.

ERRATUM. In the communication entitled "Biogenesis of Alkaloids of Solanaceae" by Sir Robert Robinson in *Nature* of August 22, p. 344, penultimate paragraph, for "this base" read "cuskhygrine".