

S. L. Wanrooy, tobacco-growing expert, British Honduras.

### The Night Sky in April

NEW moon occurs on April 3d. 12h. 25m., U.T., and full moon on April 18d. 05h. 48m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: April 1d. 18h., Mercury  $7^{\circ}$  S.; April 4d. 18h., Venus  $6^{\circ}$  S.; April 8d. 03h., Jupiter  $3^{\circ}$  S.; April 19d. 05h., Saturn  $8^{\circ}$  N.; April 23d. 17h., Mars  $1^{\circ}$  N. Mercury is too close to the sun for favourable observation during the month. Venus, an evening star, rises at 19h. 50m., 20h. 35m. and 21h. 20m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, the stellar magnitude of the planet varying between 3.4 and 3.3 and the visible portion of the illuminated disk between 0.967 and 0.929. Mars rises at 1h. 15m., 0h. 50m. and 0h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; its eastward movement during April carries it a little north of  $\lambda$  Sagittarii towards the end of the month, and its stellar magnitude varies from 0.1 to  $-0.6$ , the great increase in brightness being largely due to its approach to the earth, from 89 to 66 million miles during April. Jupiter sets at 0h. 50m., 0h. and 23h. 15m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, its stellar magnitude varying from  $-1.7$  to  $-1.6$ ; its slow eastward movement from the west to the east of  $\zeta$  Tauri can be easily seen during the month. Saturn rises at 20h. 50m., 19h. 50m. and 18h. 40m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, and is easily recognized, stellar magnitude 0.4, a little east of  $\alpha$  Virginis. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being assumed to be made at Greenwich: April 6d. 20h. 44.7 m., 36 Taur. (*D*); April 8d. 21h. 31.9 m., 5 Gemi. (*D*). *D* refers to disappearance. The Lyrid meteors, the debris of Comet 1861 I, are active during about April 20–22, but moonlight will interfere with their observation during the later part of the night.

### Announcements

THE Council of the Linnean Society of London has nominated Prof. F. E. Fritsch, emeritus professor of botany in the University of London, for the award of the Linnean Gold Medal for 1954, and Prof. Irene Manton, professor of botany in the University of Leeds, for the Trail Award and Medal. The presentation will be made at the Anniversary Meeting on May 24.

THE Hinchley Medal of the British Association of Chemists has been awarded to Mr. George T. Gurr, an authority on stains for microscopical work and their manufacture and author of "Biological Staining Methods", who has been prominently connected with the Association for a number of years.

DR. A. R. J. P. UBBELOHDE, professor of chemistry in The Queen's University of Belfast, has been appointed to the University of London chair of thermodynamics tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

DR. B. P. DUDGING, vice-chairman of the Advisory Scientific Panel of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Co., Ltd., has been made an "Ufficiale dell' Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana", in recognition of his services to the Italian glass industry. Dr. Dudging has given long service to various bodies connected with glass and glass technology, both national and international, and was president

of the International Commission on Glass in July last year.

A FARADAY SOCIETY Discussion on "The Study of Fast Reactions" will be held during April 7–9 in the Department of Chemistry, University of Birmingham, under the chairmanship of the president of the Society, Prof. R. G. W. Norrish. The meeting will be in two parts, gas reactions and solution reactions, which will be given a general introduction by Prof. H. W. Melville (University of Birmingham) and Mr. R. P. Bell (University of Oxford), respectively. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Society at 6 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1.

THE Imperial College of Science and Technology will be holding a summer school in mineral dressing in the Bessemer Laboratory, Royal School of Mines, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7 (see p. 565 of this issue), during September 14–17 (10 a.m.–5 p.m. each day). The course will include lectures covering comminution, classification, grinding control, gravity separation, flotation and ancillary processes and will be illustrated by films, demonstrations and class work. The fee for the course is £10 10s. Application forms can be obtained from the Registrar, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

THE conference on oxidation processes, arranged jointly by the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Chemical Engineering Group of the Society of Chemical Industry, the Royal Institution of Engineers (Chemical Engineering Group) of the Netherlands and the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (Section for Chemical Technology) (see *Nature*, February 6, p. 245), will not now be held in The Hague, as previously announced, but instead will be in Amsterdam during May 6–8 at the Royal Tropical Institute (Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen), Mauritskade 63.

THE Third General Assembly and International Congress of the International Union of Crystallography will be held in the Faculté des Sciences, 47 rue des Écoles, Paris 5<sup>e</sup>, during July 21–28. Two symposia are being arranged to take place during the Congress: location and function of hydrogen, organized by Dr. W. Cochran, of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge; and the mechanism of phase transitions in crystals, organized by Dr. W. G. Burgers, of the Technical Institute, 136 Julianalaan, Delft. Those intending to participate in either of these symposia should write before March 31 to the organizer and also to the secretary of the Congress, A. J. Rose, 1 rue Victor-Cousin, Paris 5<sup>e</sup>, from whom all further information concerning the Congress can be obtained.

It is proposed to publish in the near future a new journal, to be entitled *Guerin: an International Journal of Folk Life*, which will be devoted to papers, notes, reviews, etc., on all aspects of folk-life research in Great Britain and Ireland and their relations with the Continent of Europe (including Scandinavia). The language of the journal will be English. The general editor of the journal is Dr. Iorwerth C. Peate, curator of the Welsh Folk Museum, St. Fagans, near Cardiff. Two parts will be published each year, each being about sixty pages ( $7\frac{1}{4} \times 9\frac{3}{8}$  in.), with plates, and costing 5s. 6d. post paid. All those wishing to subscribe to this new journal should write as soon as possible to Dr. Peate.