

science teaching in secondary modern schools; and reference to an investigation into the present and future supply of laboratory assistants. The Association also has a Chemistry Teaching Aids Sub-Committee which makes contacts with industrial organizations willing to produce material for use in schools.

#### Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society : Officers :

THE following have been elected officers of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society : *President*, Dr. P. F. R. Venables ; *Vice-Presidents*, Miss A. C. Alexander, Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, Prof. J. Kenner and Dr. Norman Smith ; *Honorary Secretaries*, G. F. Clayton and F. Willett ; *Honorary Treasurer*, H. Hayhurst ; *Honorary Librarians*, Dr. W. H. Brindley and Dr. L. Cohen ; *Honorary Curator*, Donald Stephenson.

#### National Research Council of Canada : Awards for 1955-56

THE National Research Council of Canada has made 267 awards for 1955-56, totalling 336,300 dollars in value. They include 62 bursaries (800 dollars each), 133 studentships (1,100 dollars) and 18 fellowships (1,400 dollars), all of which are to be held in Canada. Of the awards for study abroad, thirty-three special scholarships, worth 1,900 dollars each, have been granted which will be held in the following countries : nineteen in the United Kingdom, eleven in the United States, and one each in France, Sweden and Denmark. Twenty-one overseas postdoctorate fellowships at 2,500 dollars each have been granted for work in the following countries : fifteen in the United Kingdom, two in The Netherlands, and one each in Sweden, Denmark, France and Belgium.

#### The Night Sky in July

FULL moon occurs on July 5d. 05h. 28m.,  $\Upsilon$ T., and new moon on July 19d. 11h. 34m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place : July 18d. 04h., Mercury  $0.1^\circ$  S. ; July 27d. 19h., Saturn  $6^\circ$  N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mars is in conjunction with Jupiter on July 24d. 22h., Mars  $0.6^\circ$  N. ; Venus with Pollux on July 27d. 08h., Venus  $6.2^\circ$  S. ; and Mercury with Pollux on July 27d. 15h., Mercury  $5.8^\circ$  S., and also with Venus on July 28d. 01h., Mercury  $0.3^\circ$  N. Mercury rises in the early morning hours at 3h. 05m., 2h. 40m. and 3h. 45m. on July 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Its stellar magnitude varies between 1.6 and  $-1.5$ , the visible portion of its illuminated disk increasing from 0.173 to 0.959 and its distance from the earth varying from 66 to 121 million miles. As already noted, it approaches the moon very closely on July 18. Venus is visible in the early morning hours, rising at 2h. 45m., 3h. and 3h. 35m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. The visible portion of the illuminated disk remains almost the same, the variation being 0.955-0.988 and the stellar magnitude changing from  $-3.3$  to  $-3.4$ . Mars sets less than an hour after sunset on July 1 and is too close to the sun during the month for favourable observation. Jupiter, which is in conjunction soon after the end of the month, is too close to the sun for favourable observation. Saturn sets at 1h. 05m., 0h. 10m. and 23h. 05m. on July 1, 15 and 21, respectively, its stellar magnitude being 0.7-0.8, and its distance from the earth increasing from 863 to 905 million miles. Only one star of

magnitude brighter than 6 is occulted in July : 4744 reappears on July 11d. 0h. 13.5m.,  $+1^\circ$ , mag. 5.6 (observation being made at Greenwich). The sun is in aphelion on July 4.

#### Announcements

PROF. J. H. OORT, professor of astronomy in the University of Leyden, has been elected a *correspondant* for the Astronomy Section of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to Sir Harold Spencer Jones, recently elected a foreign associate of the Academy.

PROF. L. DUDLEY STAMP, professor of social geography in the London School of Economics and Political Science, has been awarded the honorary degree of LL.D. by Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts. The Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, now headed by Prof. S. Van Valkenburg, has long held a leading position in the United States, and for the past thirty years has published the quarterly journal *Economic Geography*.

SIR ROGER DUNCALFE, president of the British Standards Institution, has been elected president of the International Organization for Standardization and will hold the office for three years from January 1 next. Besides his national and international work on industrial standards, Sir Roger is closely connected with chemical industry, being chairman of British Glues and Chemicals, Ltd.

THE Shell Petroleum Co., Ltd., is to award annually to students in Canada two postgraduate scholarships in science or engineering similar to those already given by the Company to students in other countries of the British Commonwealth. The scholarships are worth £750 a year for two years of study in the United Kingdom leading to a higher degree. The first two awards have now been made to the following for study as shown : T. P. Schaefer (University of Manitoba), physical chemistry in the University of Oxford ; and G. B. Chadwick (University of British Columbia), nuclear physics in the University of Cambridge.

AN exhibition of radiological defence instruments will be held during June 28-29 in the Palais de Chaillot, Paris, the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in conjunction with the forthcoming first session of the Civil Defence Committee. Several countries will be showing their equipment, and the British contribution to the exhibition is considerable, with sixteen individual manufacturers participating. A catalogue of the British exhibits, printed in English, French, German, Spanish and Greek, has been prepared and is available on application to R. H. Cooke, X-Ray Division, Philips Electrical, Ltd., Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.2, from whom further information can be obtained.

AN exhibition of scientific instruments and apparatus of Continental manufacture is being held by Hudes Merchandising Corporation, Ltd., Charter House, 52 Gloucester Place, London, W.1, during June 28-July 9. Among the exhibits are balances by Sartorius-Werke, a flame photometer from Dr. Lange of Berlin, a complete range of electrophoresis and chromatographic apparatus from L.K.B. Produkter of Stockholm, the Sjöstrand ultramicrotome, some new electrically heated porcelain apparatus, glass apparatus by Schott and Genossen, interference filters and a range of Zeiss microscopes and accessories.