

industry, to concentrate the work of the Association on fundamental research, was gradually giving rise to results of practical significance. Mr. G. W. Odey (Messrs. Barrow, Hepburn and Gale, Ltd.) was re-elected president. Mr. Odey stressed the importance of applying the most intensive scientific examination to natural products to make the greatest use of the structure with which they have been endowed. There were no changes in the Council or Committees of the Association.

### Agricultural Scholarships

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is offering a limited number of senior and junior scholarships to the sons and daughters of agricultural workmen, smallholders and other rural workers, and to persons who have been paid workers on the land for at least three years. The scholarships are for courses in an agricultural or allied subject, including veterinary science, at university departments of agriculture, agricultural colleges and farm institutes. Candidates must have attained the age of seventeen by September 30. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Room 313), 1 Cambridge Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, or from education offices of county councils.

### The Night Sky in February

FULL moon occurs on Feb. 7d. 01h. 43m., U.T., and new moon on Feb. 22d. 15h. 54m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Feb. 5d. 07h., Jupiter 2° N.; Feb. 14d. 14h., Saturn 6° N.; Feb. 18d. 21h., Venus 1° N.; Feb. 21d. 08h., Mercury 0.5° S.; Feb. 26d. 20h., Mars 4° S. Mercury sets at 18h. 25m., on Feb. 1, which is about 1½ hr. after sunset, and will be visible in the western sky; but the planet is rapidly drawing closer to the sun, with which it is in inferior conjunction on Feb. 12. Towards the end of the month it rises about an hour before the sun, but its declination is then 15° S. and it will not be an easy object to see. Venus rises at 4h. 45m., 5h., and 5h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and is visible in the eastern sky; but owing to its fairly large southern declination it does not attain a great altitude. Its stellar magnitude varies from -4 to -3.8 and the visible portion of its illuminated disk from 0.547 to 0.650. The distance of Venus from the earth varies from 67 to 86 millions of miles during February. Mars sets about 22h. 25m. during the month and is visible in Pisces from which it moves into Aries, its stellar magnitude varying from 1.2 to 1.4, largely owing to its distance from the earth increasing by nearly 20 million miles during February. Jupiter sets in the morning hours, being visible during the night; its times of setting are 7h., 6h. and 5h., on Feb. 1, 14 and 28, respectively, and it has a westward movement in Gemini, its stellar magnitude varying from -2.1 to -2.0, the decrease in brightness being due to its distance from the earth increasing by 23 million miles during the month. Saturn rises at 1h. 55m., 1h. 05m. and 0h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It moves slowly towards  $\gamma$  Librae but is stationary at the end of the month, after which it has a westward movement. Its stellar magnitude is 0.7 at the beginning and 0.65 at the end of the month, owing to its distance from the earth decreasing by 42 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich:

Feb. 1d. 0h. 19.0m.,  $\zeta$  Ari. (D); Feb. 2d. 19h. 14.8m., 103 Tau. (D); Feb. 3d. 18h. 11.9m., 3 Gem. *m* (D); Feb. 4d. 1h. 05.3m.,  $\mu$  Gem. (D); Feb. 4d. 1h. 46.6m.,  $\mu$  Gem. (R); Feb. 4d. 23h. 45.7m., 56 Gem. (D); Feb. 10d. 6h. 01.4m., 13 B. Vir. (R); Feb. 28d. 19h. 02.6m., 133 B. Tau. (D); Feb. 28d. 22h. 08.3m., 32 Tau. (D), where R and D refer to reappearance and disappearance, respectively.

### Announcements

THE second International Seaweed Symposium will be held in the Norwegian Technical University, Trondheim, during July 13-17. Further information can be obtained from Prof. T. Braarud, Blindern, Oslo.

THE annual conference of the Museums Association will be held at Birmingham during July 4-9. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Museums Association, 33 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

THE eighth Laboratory Animals Bureau Congress will be held in Oxford during March 28-29. The third symposium on "Breeding of Laboratory Animals", organized by the Bureau, will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine on May 9. Further information can be obtained from the Laboratory Animals Bureau, M.R.C. Laboratories, Holly Hill, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

THE annual Spring Conferences in the Department of Industrial Metallurgy, University of Birmingham, will be held during March 14-15. The subject for March 14 will be "Graphitization in Cast Irons", and for March 15 "The Structure and Properties of Electrodeposited Metals and Alloys". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Industrial Metallurgy, The University, Birmingham 15.

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology is offering assistantships and fellowships for students taking the two-year course leading to the degree of master of science in industrial management. Assistantships are valued at 1,640 dollars and fellowships at 2,300 (3,000 for married students) dollars a year. Further information can be obtained from the Chairman of the Graduate Committee, School of Industrial Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass., U.S.A.

THE Trustees of the Lady Tata Memorial Fund invite applications for grants, scholarships or fellowships for research on diseases of the blood, with special reference to leukaemia, during the academic year beginning on October 1, 1955. Further particulars and forms of application may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the (European) Scientific Advisory Committee, Lady Tata Memorial Trust, 38 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1; applications must be submitted before March 31.

THE Worshipful Company of Glass-Sellers of London is offering up to four scholarships in glass technology tenable at the University of Sheffield which, in suitable circumstances, qualify for supplementation by the Ministry of Education up to the full value of State scholarships. The scholarship examination consists of papers in chemistry, physics and pure mathematics (two as primary subjects and one as a secondary subject) together with an English language paper. Applications for entry should be made to the Registrar, University of Sheffield, Sheffield 10, before February 26.