

Birmingham). As in previous years, the Society is publishing a "Handbook of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus" in connexion with the Exhibition (6s., or 7s. by post). All inquiries should be sent to the Society at I Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

#### University of Birmingham: Appointments

THE title of reader in organic chemistry in the University of Birmingham has been given to Dr. E. J. Bourne, senior lecturer in organic chemistry. The following appointments have recently been made in the University: Dr. B. G. Gowenlock, to be lecturer in chemistry; G. Webster, Edward Cadbury Fellow in archaeology, to be staff tutor in archaeology; and S. J. Lyle, to the J. Lyons fellowship in analytical chemistry. The title of University research fellow has been given to the following during the tenure of their present posts: Dr. H. Spedding, of the British Cotton Industry Research Association, who is working in the Department of Chemistry, and Dr. J. S. Howell, who is working in the Department of Pathology, for the Birmingham Branch of the British Empire Cancer Campaign Committee.

#### Belgian Physical Society: Officers

At the annual general meeting of the Société Belge de Physique, held on February 19, the following officers were elected: *President*, Prof. P. Swings (Liège); *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. W. de Keyser (Ghent), Prof. J. Delfosse (Louvain) and Prof. G. A. Homes (Brussels); *Secretary General*, Dr. M. C. Désirant (A.C.E.C. Physics Research Laboratory, Charleroi).

#### The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 7d. 06h. 35m., U.T., and new moon on April 22d. 13h. 06m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: April 10d. 03h., Saturn 6° N.; April 20d. 05h., Venus 7° S.; April 25d. 02h., Mars 0.7° S.; April 28d. 02h., Jupiter 3° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mars is in conjunction with Aldebaran on April 25d. 23h., Mars being 6.4° north of Aldebaran. Mercury, in superior conjunction on April 23, is unfavourably placed for observation during the month. Venus rises at 4h. 40m., 4h. 20m. and 4h. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, and will be visible for a short time before sunrise. Its stellar magnitude varies from -3.5 to -3.4, and the visible portion of the illuminated disk from 0.756 to 0.835; this increase does not compensate for the planet's recession from the earth—from 107 to 124 million miles between April 1 and 30—so that there is a small decrease in brightness. Mars sets about 22h. 30m. during the month and has an eastward movement in Taurus; its close approach to Aldebaran on April 25 has been pointed out. Jupiter remains visible until the early morning hours, its times of setting being 2h. 55m., 2h. 05m. and 1h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and is a conspicuous object in Gemini; in the third week of April it is a little south of  $\alpha$  Geminorum; its stellar magnitude varies from -1.8 to -1.6, the decrease in brightness being due to its distance from the earth increasing from 465 to 508 million miles during the month. Saturn rises at 22h., 21h. and 20h. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, and has a retrograde movement in Libra; its brightness increases by 0.2 mag. during the month, owing to its distance from the earth decreasing from 847 to 828 million miles. Only one occultation of stars brighter

than magnitude 6 occurs in April, observations being made at Greenwich: April 2d. 22h. 42.1m.,  $h$  Leo. (*D*), *D* referring to disappearance. The Lyrid meteor shower attains a maximum on April 21; the radiant of this shower is at R.A. 18h., Dec. 33° N.

#### Announcements

THE Bækeland Memorial Lecture of the Plastics and Polymer Group of the Society of Chemical Industry will be given in the Royal Institution, London, W.1, on June 2, by Dr. C. E. K. Mees, who will speak on "Leo Hendrik Bækeland and Photographic Printing Papers".

A MEETING is being held under the auspices of the Institute of Biology on April 15 at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, W.1, to discuss the place of biology in technical colleges. Speakers will include representatives of industry, agricultural research and the Ministry of Education, an external examiner of the University of London and several lecturers from technical colleges. The meeting is open to all interested, and further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Institute of Biology, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

THE essay subjects for this year's *Endeavour* prizes of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be as follows: the earth's magnetism; man-made fibres; climatic changes; scientific aids to food supply; respiration; and new metals for engineers. The essays must be sent in by June 1 and should not exceed four thousand words. Competitors must be less than twenty-five years of age, and the prizes will be 50, 25 and 15 guineas respectively, with two special awards of 5 guineas to those less than eighteen. Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

THE Textile Institute is offering a three-year scholarship, of total value £950, which is open to a man of British nationality, and less than twenty-four years of age, to enable him to pursue a three-year course in textile technology at a university, or equivalent, level. The Institute is also offering two new scholarships, to be known as the Peter Coats Scholarships, for young men of about school-leaving age to study for a college diploma or other qualifications in subjects connected with the cotton industry. The scholarships will be worth not more than £100 a year, tenable for two or three years in a British technical college. The closing date for entries for all these awards is April 30, application forms and further information being obtainable from the General Secretary, Textile Institute, 10 Blackfriars Street, Manchester 3.

FROM £8,000 of the United States Counterpart Funds for economic aid, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is offering a number of postgraduate scholarships during the academic year 1955-56 for vocational training in the following subjects: agricultural economics, farm management, estate management, and land economics and land use. The scholarships will be worth £400-800, free of income tax, plus all compulsory fees and other expenses, and are open to British subjects resident in the United Kingdom. Application forms, to be returned by April 30, and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1-4 Cambridge Terrace, London, N.W.1.