

a table with the final values of the m_{pv} magnitudes and colours of fourteen north polar sequence stars as measured photoelectrically at Kvistaberg.

Copals and their Botanical Origin

THE study of fresh copals of known botanical origin has shown that, with some exceptions, their discrimination by the usual characteristics is imprecise and hazardous. On the other hand, it has now been shown that the infra-red spectrographs of their extracts are characteristic and specific (L. Hellinck, *Publ. de l'Inst. Nat. pour l'Étude Agron. Congo Belge* (I.N.É.A.C.); Sér. Tech. No. 44, 1955). When the spectrographic method was applied to the study of 'fossil' copals, it was concluded that these had been produced by the same species that yield fresh copal, *Guibourtia demeusei* and *Tessmannia anomala* being the most important two in that order. It has also been confirmed that, in the course of a few months, freshly exuded copals possess the collective properties of 'fossil' copal. Hence it has not been possible to study the ageing of copal or to assign precise ages to fossil materials.

Colonial Service: Recent Appointments

THE following appointments have recently been made in the Colonial Service: R. F. Cumpston and R. B. Royle (agricultural supervisors, Nyasaland), principal agricultural supervisors, Nyasaland; C. E. Moore (agricultural officer, Gold Coast), senior soil conservation officer, Gold Coast; J. D. Tallantire (senior agricultural officer, Federation of Nigeria), principal agricultural officer, Federation of Nigeria; I. T. Twyford (soil scientist, Fiji), chemist, Department of Agriculture, Fiji; D. H. Welch (principal agricultural officer, Western Region, Nigeria), deputy director of agriculture, Western Region, Nigeria; W. M. C. Bagshaw (assistant conservator of forests, British Guiana), deputy conservator of forests, British Guiana; J. D. Scott (specialist forest engineer, Nigeria), conservator of forests, Sierra Leone; J. L. J. Vinson (curator, Mauritius Institute), director, Mauritius Institute; A. C. Evans, assistant director (research), Tanganyika; S. Gray, senior agronomist, Uganda; C. Harkness, plant breeder (botanist), Northern Region, Nigeria; F. M. Spencer and J. V. Webdale, agricultural officers, Tanganyika; D. P. Taylor, agricultural officer, Kenya; D. D. Thornton, pasture agronomist, Uganda; P. A. Board, fisheries officer, Eastern Region, Nigeria; M. H. D. Dowell, assistant conservator of forests, Nyasaland; P. J. Fogg, assistant conservator of forests, British Honduras; P. A. Skott, assistant conservator of forests, Tanganyika; P. E. Brown and R. Halligan, geologists, Tanganyika; R. T. Gittins, field officer (geology), Uganda; B. Hitchon, geologist, Northern Rhodesia; G. Surtees, research entomologist, West African Council for Medical Research, Nigeria; J. Lamb, director, West African Cacao Research Institute, Gold Coast; K. C. Sleep, scientific officer (chemist), Tanganyika; K. Horlyck, veterinary officer, Northern Region, Nigeria.

Announcements

THE Royal Swedish Academy of Technical Sciences (IVA) has conferred its highest mark of distinction, the IVA Grand Gold Medal, on Dr. K. H. Gustavson, of the Swedish Tanning Research Institute, Stockholm, in recognition of his pioneering contributions to the chemistry and reactivity of collagen, and for

his investigations of the mechanism of tanning, particularly his research on the reaction of chromium compounds with hide protein in chrome tanning. Dr. Gustavson is president of the International Union of Leather Chemists' Societies.

SIR RAYMOND PRIESTLEY has temporarily been appointed director of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Scientific Bureau during the absence of the permanent director, Dr. V. E. Fuchs, who is to lead the forthcoming trans-Antarctic Expedition.

DR. R. K. SCHOFIELD, head of the Chemistry Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station (*Nature*, 175, 283; 1955), has been appointed reader in soil science in the Department of Agriculture, University of Oxford, in succession to Dr. E. Walter Russell, who is now director of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization (*Nature*, 175, 1065; 1955).

DR. D. E. TRIBE, lecturer in animal husbandry in the University of Bristol, has been appointed to a readership in the physiology of domestic animals in the University of Melbourne.

THE University of Sheffield has appointed Dr. T. R. Kaiser and R. C. Curran to be senior lecturers in physics and pathology, respectively. The following have been appointed lecturers: Dr. R. C. Cass (chemistry), Dr. T. P. H. McKellar (psychology), Dr. V. A. Phillips (metallurgy) and Dr. A. N. Stroh (physics).

DR. K. P. BISWAS, formerly superintendent of the Indian Botanic Garden (*Nature*, 176, 239; August 6, 1955) has been appointed, as from August 1, director-in-charge of Medicinal Plants Schemes in India to develop the vegetable wealth of the country. The work is being done under the auspices of the Medicinal Plants Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India, and Medicinal Plants Committee of the Government of West Bengal, of which Dr. B. C. Roy is chairman and Dr. Biswas secretary.

THE Industrial Section of the Royal Microscopical Society is arranging a symposium and exhibition on "Fibre Microscopy", to be held at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1, on November 16 (2-9.30 p.m.). The exhibition will consist of fourteen displays from government laboratories, research associations and private firms. Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Royal Microscopical Society, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

THE National Coal Board has decided to change the titles of its Central Research Establishments: the Central Research Establishment I, at Stoke Orchard, near Cheltenham, will now be known as the Coal Research Establishment, and Central Research Establishment II, at Isleworth, as the Mining Research Establishment. The changes have been made to indicate the character of the work carried out at the two Establishments.

REFERRING to their advertisement in *Nature* of October 15, supp. p. iii, of "The Geneva Series on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy", Messrs. Macmillan ask us to point out that each volume of the series will probably be priced at 55s. and that the subscription terms inadvertently included in the advertisement will not apply.