

Bradford Symposium and Exhibition on Radio-chemistry

THE Bradford Chemical Society, in conjunction with the Department of Chemistry and Dyeing of the Technical College, Bradford, and the Yorkshire Council for Further Education, is arranging a symposium on radiochemistry and an exhibition of radiochemical and chemical apparatus, to be held in the Technical College, Bradford, during February 17-18. The symposium will take the form of a short course on the subject, and four lectures will be given, as follows: basic principles of radiochemistry (Dr. G. B. Cook), measurement of beta- and gamma-radiation (Dr. D. Taylor), estimation of isotope concentrations (A. A. Smales) and applications to chemical problems (Dr. D. R. Stranks). The symposium and exhibition will be open, without charge, but to help in the arrangement of accommodation for lectures and demonstrations, intending visitors are requested to inform Dr. W. R. Moore, of the Department of Chemistry and Dyeing, Technical College, Bradford, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

The Night Sky in February

NEW moon occurs on Feb. 11d. 21h. 38m., *v.t.*, and full moon on Feb. 26d. 01h. 41m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Feb. 5d. 05h., Saturn 3° N.; Feb. 6d. 07h., Mars 0.2° N.; Feb. 9d. 22h., Mercury 1° S.; Feb. 15d. 11h., Venus 6° S.; Feb. 25d. 11h., Jupiter 6° N. Mercury rises about 7h. at the beginning of the month and is then too close to the Sun for observation, but at the middle and end of the month it rises at 6h. 10m., in the former case more than an hour before sunrise and may be visible for a short period though it lies rather low for good observation in the British Isles. Venus sets at 20h. 10m., 20h. 45m. and 21h. 30m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; its stellar magnitude varies between -3.5 and -3.6 and the visible portion of its illuminated disk between 0.793 and 0.705 during the month, its distance from the Earth during this period varying from 113 to 96 million miles. Mars rises shortly before 4h. during February. Its eastward motion through Ophiuchus into Sagittarius and its position a little south of μ Sagittarii at the end of the month is easily observed, though it lies rather far south for good observation during this time; its stellar magnitude varies from 1.5 to 1.2, due to its distance from the Earth decreasing from 170 to 147 million miles during February. Jupiter rises early in the evening and is visible throughout the night, setting at 8h. 30m., 7h. 30m. and 6h. 30m. on February 1, 15 and 29, respectively, and is a conspicuous object (stellar magnitude -2.1) in the constellation Leo, in which it has a westward motion. Saturn rises at 2h. 55m., 2h. 05m. and 1h. 15m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and lies a little north of β and γ Scorpii, but is too low for good observation in the British Isles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Feb. 1d. 01h. 32.0m., q Vir. (*R*); Feb. 14d. 18h. 25.5m., 19 Psc. (*D*); Feb. 19d. 20h. 10.9m., 51 Tau. (*D*); Feb. 19d. 20h. 55.7m., 56 Tau. (*D*); Feb. 20d. 00h. 34.4m., 247B Tau. (*D*); Feb. 20d. 19h. 42.7m., n Tau. (*D*); Feb. 20d. 23h. 47.6m., o Tau. (*D*); Feb. 23d. 22h. 25.6m., 29 Cnc. (*D*); Feb. 24d. 23h. 57.7m., α Leo m (*D*). *R* and *D* refer to reappearance and disappearance, respectively.

Announcements

THE first award of the William Froude Medal of the Institution of Naval Architects has been made to Sir Thomas Havelock, lately professor of mathematics in the University of Durham (King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne). The William Froude Memorial Fund was launched by the Institution in 1952 to enable a plaque to be placed on the site of the original experimental tank at Torquay and to publish Froude's technical papers. These have been done, and from the small balance still remaining in the Fund the Institution will offer this gold medal from time to time for "some outstanding contribution to naval architecture and shipbuilding".

THE Zoological Society of India has awarded the Sir Dorab Tata Gold Medal to Dr. M. L. Roonwal, forest entomologist in the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for his contributions to zoology during 1952-54. Dr. M. L. Roonwal's work has been concerned with termites and Teredinid boring bivalves in relation to forestry, and also with phase-transformation and population dynamics of the desert locust.

PROF. P. W. RICHARDS, professor of botany in the University College of North Wales, Bangor, and Mr. H. Wardale, a Northumberland hill farmer, have been appointed to the National Parks Commission. Brigadier P. B. E. Acland, Dr. Nancy G. Davies and Mr. W. B. Yapp have been re-appointed members of the Commission. Prof. R. C. McLean has resigned.

PROF. E. G. WHITE, professor of veterinary preventative medicine in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed a member of the Agricultural Improvement Council for England and Wales to fill the vacancy created by the death of Prof. F. Blakemore.

DR. JESSE E. HOBSON, director since March 1948 of the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, California, is resigning because of ill health. Dr. Hobson, who is an electrical engineer, was director of the Armour Research Foundation for four years prior to his appointment to the Stanford Research Institute. At that time the staff of the Institute numbered less than fifty and its research budget 250,000 dollars a year; it is a tribute to Dr. Hobson's leadership that during the past eight years the Institute has grown to a staff of twelve hundred and a budget of $10\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars.

MR. RALPH H. ATKINSON has retired as head of the Platinum Metals Section of the Research Laboratory at Bayonne, New Jersey, of the International Nickel Company. A graduate of the University of Cambridge, Mr. Atkinson was a lecturer in chemistry and metallurgy at Cambridge before joining the Mond Nickel Company in 1923 as assistant manager of its platinum metals refinery. He moved to Canada early in 1940 and has held a number of appointments there and in the United States, mainly with affiliated organizations of the International Nickel Company. His research at Bayonne has been on metallurgical and electrochemical problems in connexion with the applications of the platinum family of metals, with special regard to the soldering and casting of palladium.

A MEMORIAL service for Prof. A. O. Rankine, emeritus professor of physics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, who died on January 20, will be held in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London, W.C.2, on February 2 at noon.