

Press and representatives of the neighbourhood will be invited to tour the establishment. On June 1 there will be a 'university open day', when scientists and technologists from universities and Government research establishments and representatives of industry will be invited. As a result of the changes in security classification made before the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva last year, much of the work at the Establishment is no longer subject to security restrictions. Consequently, visitors will have more freedom to see a wider range of work at Harwell than was possible until recently.

#### Society of Chemical Industry : Seventy-fifth Annual Meeting

IN connexion with the seventy-fifth annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, which will be held in London during July 9-14, a series of lectures will be given under the title of "Achievements of Industrial Chemistry". They will be introduced by Dr. L. A. Jordan on July 11, speaking on "Modern Methods of Research", and thereafter they will fall into two parallel series. The first series, under the title of "Products of Industrial Chemistry", will be as follows: new products of the fermentation industry, by J. J. H. Hastings (July 12); hydrocarbon macromolecules, by C. W. Bunn (July 12); carbohydrate macromolecules, by Prof. M. Stacey (July 13); nitrogen- and chlorine-containing macromolecules, by Prof. H. W. Melville (July 13). The second series will be on "Tools of Industrial Chemistry", and will be as follows: metals as plant construction materials, by Dr. N. P. Inglis (July 12); non-metals as plant construction materials, by Herbert W. Cremer and G. Brearly (July 12); manufacturing techniques, by W. d'Leny (July 13); records and control, by Dr. G. M. Dyson (July 13).

#### The Night Sky in April

NEW moon occurs on April 11d. 02h. 39m., U.T., and full moon on April 25d. 01h. 40m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: April 4d. 05h., Mars 4° S.; April 11d. 17h., Mercury 4° S.; April 14d. 14h., Venus 4° N.; April 19d. 19h., Jupiter 6° N.; April 27d. 05h., Saturn 3° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Aldebaran on April 14d. 20h., Venus 9.1° N. Mercury is too close to the Sun in the first half of the month for observation, but after that it can be observed in the evening; its time of setting on April 30 is 21h. 25m., which is two hours after sunset. Its stellar magnitude varies from -1.2 to 0.2, and the visible portion of its illuminated disk from 0.880 to 0.460; its distance from the Earth is 125 and 85 million miles on April 1 and 30, respectively. Venus sets at 23h., 23h. 35m. and 23h. 40m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, its stellar magnitude varying between -3.9 and -4.1, and its distance from the Earth between 75 and 54 million miles; the visible portion of the illuminated disk varies from 0.570 and 0.401. Mars rises at 3h., 2h. 35m. and 2h. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, stellar magnitude 0.7-0.3, the increase in brightness being due to the distance from the Earth decreasing from 121 to 98 million miles; at the beginning of the month it lies a little south of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sagittarii, and its eastward movement is easily detected by observing its positions with reference to this star over a few nights. Jupiter is visible throughout the night, setting in the morning hours at 4h.

20m., 3h. 20m. and 2h. 20m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively. Its stellar magnitude varies from -1.9 to -1.7 owing to its distance from the Earth increasing from 435 to 457 million miles. Saturn rises at 23h. 05m., 22h. 05m. and 21h. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; its westward movement can be noticed by comparing its positions during the month with  $\beta$  and  $\nu$  Scorpii, and its stellar magnitude varies from 0.5 to 0.3 owing to its distance from the Earth decreasing from 866 to 839 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: April 2d. 4h. 08.4m., 21G Sgr. (R); April 17d. 23h. 13.1m., 1 Cnc. (D); April 19d. 0h. 28.5m., 60 Cnc. (D); April 21d. 23h. 03.4m.,  $\epsilon$  Leo. (D), R and D referring to reappearance and disappearance, respectively. The Lyrid meteors attain a maximum about April 21, but moonlight will make their observation very difficult.

#### Announcements

DR. ALEXANDER MUIR, head of the Pedology Department, Rothamsted, and the Soil Survey of England and Wales, has been appointed deputy director (Soils Division) of Rothamsted Experimental Station in succession to the late Dr. E. M. Crowther.

THE following appointments in the University of London have been announced: Dr. E. G. Healey, lecturer in zoology in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, to the University readership in zoology tenable at Bedford College; Dr. D. C. Spanner, lecturer in plant biophysics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, to the University readership in botany tenable at Bedford College.

THE University of Leeds has appointed Dr. H. C. Versey, reader in applied geology, to a personal chair in the Department of Geology. Dr. P. Padget has been appointed Oppenheimer Geological Fellow in the Institute of African Geology of the University.

THE annual general meeting and conference of the Mammal Society of the British Isles will be held in the Zoology School of the University of Cambridge during April 6-9. On April 6, at 8.30 p.m., a public lecture on "The Mammalian Placenta" will be given by Prof. J. D. Boyd, professor of anatomy in the University. Further information can be obtained from the conference secretary, K. M. Backhouse, Department of Anatomy, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, Charterhouse Square, London, E.C.1.

THE Institution of Mechanical Engineers has recently established a set of lectures for boys, to be called the Leonardo da Vinci Lectures, and the first three will be given on April 9, 10 and 11 (at 3 p.m.) as follows: "Fundamental Energy", by Prof. D. G. Christopherson (professor of mechanical engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London); "Applied Energy", by Sir Claude Gibb (chairman and managing director, C. A. Parsons and Co., Ltd.); and "Nuclear Energy", by Sir Christopher Hinton (member for engineering and production, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Production). Tickets (which are free) for one or more lectures and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London, S.W.1.

ERRATUM. In the article "Polar Wandering" in *Nature* of March 24, on p. 551, col. 2, par 2, the second quotation should begin with the word "We" in line 10.