

miles and increasing to 39 million miles by September 30. Mars is a little east of ψ Aquarii, and this opposition is particularly favourable for observers because it occurs near the perihelion of Mars. Jupiter is too close to the Sun for observation during the early part of the month; it rises at 4h. 10m. on September 30, almost two hours before the Sun, and is near σ Leonis. Saturn sets at 21h. 25m., 20h. 30m. and 19h. 35m. on September 1, 15 and 30, respectively, and is approaching β Scorpii during the month; its stellar magnitude is 0.7, and its distance during the middle of the month is about 960 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich (*D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively): Sept. 13d. 20h. 28.8m., 29 Sgr. (*D*); Sept. 27d. 00h. 03.6., γ^1 Ori. (*R*); Sept. 30d. 02h. 39.5m., 60 Cnc. (*R*). The autumnal equinox occurs on Sept. 23d. 02h.

Announcements

THE following have been appointed to chairs in the newly established Medical School in the University of Western Australia: *Biochemistry*, Prof. J. W. H. Lugg, professor of biochemistry in the University of Malaya and formerly of the University of Melbourne; *Physiology*, Dr. W. J. Simmonds, of the Kanematsu Memorial Institute of Pathology, Sydney Hospital, and formerly lecturer in physiology in the University of Sydney; and *Pathology*, Dr. R. E. J. ten Seldam, reader in physiology in the University of Sydney and formerly director of pathology of the Roman Catholic Hospitals, Eindhoven.

IN view of the diversity of the programme, both geographically and scientifically, of the International Geophysical Year, 1957-58, the bureau of the special committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions decided to appoint a full-time officer to assist in the co-ordination of the operations in order to ensure that the Year achieves its fullest promise. Vice-Admiral Sir Archibald Day, hydrographer of the Royal Navy during 1950-55, has been selected for this post of co-ordinator of operations, and he will have his office in Brussels alongside that of the general secretary. Since his retirement, Sir Archibald, who is fifty-seven years old, has been on a hydrographic survey of Lake Nyasa, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications in the Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has agreed to release him in order that he may take up his new post.

J. R. PUGH, assistant to the chief traction engineer of British Insulated Callender's Construction Co., Ltd., has been awarded the Sir Alexander Roger travelling scholarship for 1956 and will visit Germany, Austria, Sweden and France to study the design, erection and performance of high-voltage a.c. traction equipment. Since joining the Company in 1948 as a graduate apprentice from the University of Cambridge, Mr. Pugh has worked on the technical aspects of railway electrification schemes. This scholarship has been established by British Insulated Callender's Cables, Ltd., as a tribute to Sir Alexander Roger, its first honorary president.

THE British Oxygen Co., Ltd., has awarded fellowships for postgraduate research to C. M. George (Department of Chemistry, University of Bristol) and N. G. Parsonage (Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford). The fellowships of the following have been renewed for a third year: B. F.

Figgins (Queen Mary College, London), D. H. Kirkwood (Department of Metallurgy, University of Cambridge) and R. D. McCammon (Clarendon Laboratory, University of Oxford).

AN informal discussion on "Nucleic Acids and Nucleo-Proteins: Structure and Function" will be held under the auspices of the Colloid and Biophysics Committee of the Faraday Society during October 12-13 at the Manson Hall of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 26 Portland Place, London, W.1. About twenty papers will be read. The accommodation is limited, but those who would like to attend are invited to communicate with Dr. K. V. Shooter, Chester Beatty Research Institute, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3, from whom further information can be obtained.

THE Photobiology Group will hold a meeting in the Botany School, Downing Street, Cambridge, during September 28-29, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. H. Pirenne. The annual general meeting of the Group will be held on the second day. Non-members of the Group can participate on payment of a fee of 5s. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. Hill, Biochemistry Department, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

THE ninety-ninth meeting of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte will be held in Hamburg during September 23-26. On the first day, prior to the meeting proper, a discussion will be held on science and the general educational programme of German high schools. Further information on the whole meeting can be obtained from Dr. Weber, Sekretariat der Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte, Hamburg-Harburg, Phönix-Gummiwerke A.G.

THE Hungarian Scientific Society for Measurement and Automation is organizing a conference, to be held in Budapest during October 1-4, at which the following eight topics will be discussed: general features of instrumentation, metrology and nomenclature; mechanical measurements; optical measurements; thermodynamics; communications measurements; physico-chemical measurements; nuclear radiation measurements; and mathematical instruments and machines. Most of the papers will be in Hungarian, but translations in English and German will be available in advance. Papers from abroad are invited; these should be not more than twenty minutes in reading time and should be in English, French, German or Russian. Shortened versions, of 500-800 words in length, must be sent before September 1. Further information can be obtained from the Secretariat, Hungarian Scientific Society for Measurement and Automation, Budapest V, Honvédu.22.1.3.

THE British Memorial Fund of Victoria, Australia, is offering a further four fellowships for 1957 to British subjects, less than thirty-five years old, with at least ten years of residence in the United Kingdom. Two of the fellowships are in natural history and chemical engineering, respectively, and two are open for any choice of study or research. Each is worth £A1,000 and tenable only in Victoria. Application forms, to be completed by September 15, and further information can be obtained from the Victorian Agent-General in London, Colonel the Hon. W. W. Leggatt, Victoria House, Melbourne Place, Strand, London, W.C.2.