

Oct. 7d. 20h., Saturn 2° N.; Oct. 16d. 15h., Mars 9° S.; Oct. 30d. 11h., Jupiter 6° N.; Oct. 30d. 21h., Venus 6° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Regulus on Oct. 5d. 14h., Venus being 0.4° S., Venus with Jupiter on Oct. 25d. 14h., Venus being 0.2° N., and Mercury with Spica on Oct. 26d. 09h., Mercury being 4° N. Mercury can be seen before sunrise during the middle of the month, rising at 4h. 45m. on October 15. Venus rises at 2h. 0m., 2h. 30m. and 3h. 15m. on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively, and is very bright, its stellar magnitude being about -3.7 ; its distance from the Earth is increasing throughout the month, from 87 to 106 million miles, and the visible fraction of the apparent disk also increases, from 0.65 to 0.75. Mars rises at 17h. 20m., 16h. 15m. and 15h. 05m. on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively, and sets at 3h. 30m., 2h. 35m. and 1h. 50m. on the following mornings; its stellar magnitude decreases during the month from -2.2 to -1.3 . Mars was at minimum distance from the Earth during September and is now getting farther away, being at 53 million miles by October 31; it is near ψ Aquarii throughout the month. Jupiter rises at 4h. 05m., 3h. 30m. and 2h. 45m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; at the beginning of the month it is near σ Leonis and moves into Virgo, being near β Virginis at the end of the month. Saturn sets at 19h. 30m. on October 1, and is too close to the Sun for satisfactory observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Oct. 14d. 20h. 28.3m., c^1 Cap. (*D*); Oct. 22d. 23h. 05.4m., 129 H^1 Tau (*R*); Oct. 27d. 03h. 27.6m., A^1 Cnc. (*R*); *R* and *D* refer to reappearance and disappearance, respectively. The Orionid meteors are active during October 15-25, but conditions are unfavourable; the radiant is near R.A. 6h. 24m., Dec. 15° N. Taurid meteors may be seen during the last few days of the month; conditions are favourable and the radiant is near R.A. 3h. 36m., Dec. 14° N.

Announcements

THE Messel Medal for 1956 of the Society of Chemical Industry has been awarded to Sir Alexander Fleck, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. The Medal will be presented to Sir Alexander at a special meeting of the Society on October 12 at 6.30 p.m., held in the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, when he will deliver an address on "The Chemical Industry: Some Achievements; Some Problems".

MR. L. A. WISEMAN, who is at present working at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, has been appointed deputy director of the British Rayon Research Association.

THE following appointments have been made in the Department of Chemistry of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver: Dr. J. Halpern, associate professor; Dr. H. G. Heal, assistant professor; and Dr. G. Porter, instructor.

SIX transfer scholarships provided by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., have recently been awarded to sixth-form boys for study at the University of Liverpool. The scholarships are specially designed for those who have specialized in arts subjects at school but who wish to pursue scientific studies at a university, and they cover a one-year course of intensive preliminary training in the basic sciences

as a preparation to study for a degree in science (see *Nature*, March 31, p. 606). In general, the scholarships are tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Universities of Cambridge, Liverpool and Oxford.

THE Chemical Society invites applications for the Corday-Morgan Medal and Prize for 1955, for work in experimental chemistry, published in that year, by a British person who at the time of publication was less than thirty-six years old. The award consists of a silver medal and prize of 200 guineas. Details of the application, to be made by December 31, and further information can be obtained from the General Secretary of the Society at Burlington House, London, W.1.

A HARRISON Memorial Prize, not exceeding 100 guineas, is being offered this year for chemical research over the past five years by a natural born British subject not more than thirty years old. The selection will be by a committee consisting of the Presidents of the Chemical Society, the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry and the Pharmaceutical Society. Details of application, which must be made by December 1, and further information can be obtained from the President of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

THE Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 is increasing the value of its awards for scientific research, and as from October 1 the senior studentships for workers recommended by universities in Great Britain will be £800 a year and the overseas scholarships for students from universities of the British Commonwealth (and Eire) will be £550 a year; in each case, annual grants of up to £100 a year for approved fees and expenses will be available.

A CONGRESS on "Rockets and Guided Missiles for Continental Connexions and Telecommunications", together with an exhibition of rockets and guided missiles and their associated equipment, will be held in Paris during December 3-8 under the auspices of the Association pour l'Encouragement à la Recherche Aéronautique. The congress will be international in scope and will be broadly divided into two groups on scientific and technical studies and on economic studies, respectively. Further information can be obtained from A.E.R.A., 1 rue de Courty, Paris 7^e.

AN international conference on "Operational Research", organized by the Operational Research Society (Great Britain), the Operations Research Society of America and the Institute of Management Sciences (United States), will be held in the University of Oxford during September 2-6, 1957. There will be four sessions on the common themes in operational research; methodology; and applications (two sessions). Those wishing to read papers should send summaries in duplicate, and not more than two hundred words in length, not later than November 30 to either Dr. Thornton Page, Operations Research Office, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, or to Mr. B. H. P. Rivett, Operational Research Society, 2 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1.

ERRATUM.—In the article on "The 1956 Cambridge Summer School in Physical Chemistry", published in *Nature* of September 15, on p. 578, eleven lines from the bottom of column 1, for "carbon monoxide" read "chlorine monoxide".