

beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; it is in Leo, being stationary on May 20 and subsequently moving eastwards among the stars. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is -1.8 , and its distance from the Earth in the middle of the month is 455 million miles. Saturn rises at 22h. 05m., 21h. 05m. and 19h. 55m. on May 1, 15 and 31, respectively, and is retrograding in Ophiuchus; its stellar magnitude is $+0.3$, its distance from the Earth on May 15 being 840 million miles. There is one occultation of a star brighter than magnitude 6, observation being made at Greenwich: May 15d. 23h. 49.0m., ξ Oph. (*R*); *R* refers to reappearance. Comet Arend-Roland is visible throughout the night as a circumpolar object; its declination varies from $+57^\circ$ to $+63^\circ$ in the course of the month. It is expected to fade from magnitude 2 at the beginning of May to fainter than magnitude 6 by the end of the month.

Announcements

SIR HAROLD HARTLEY has been elected president of the Society of Instrument Technology in succession to Mr. A. J. Young.

MR. J. E. C. BAILEY, chairman and managing director of Baird and Tatlock (London), Ltd., has been elected chairman of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association, his term of office to extend until July 1960. Mr. Bailey has for many years been prominent in the instrument industry both in his connexions with the British Scientific Instrument Research Association and the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association, and more recently by his election as senior warden of the newly formed Company of Scientific Instrument Manufacturers.

DR. D. C. MACPHAIL has been appointed as director of the Division of Mechanical Engineering of the National Research Council of Canada. Dr. MacPhail, who worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough during the Second World War, has been assistant director of this Division for the past eight years, and replaces Mr. J. H. Parkin, who is retiring from the office of director, but who will continue to act as a consultant to the Division.

LORD MILLS, Minister of Power, is to perform the opening ceremony for the new laboratories of the Safety in Mines Research Establishment in Broad Lane, Sheffield, on April 25, at 2.30 p.m.

THE Right Hon. Hugh Molson, Minister of Works, will open three new buildings at the Research and Development Station of the Cement and Concrete Association at Wexham Springs, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, on May 1. The three buildings are a chemistry and physics laboratory, a demonstration hall and a new building to house the training centre, hostel, canteen and printing department.

THE B.B.C. is to hold an open day at two of its transmitting stations on April 27, when the new television station at the Crystal Palace and the high-power sound broadcasting station at Droitwich, which includes the long-wave Light Programme and the Midland Home Service transmitters, will be on view to the public from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. No tickets of admittance will be required.

AN international symposium on "Macromolecular Chemistry", arranged by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, will be held in Prague

during September 9-15. Further details may be obtained from the Secretariat, 5, Technická, Prague 6.

AN international conference on prestressed concrete, organized by the University of California in co-operation with the Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte and the Prestressed Concrete Institute of America, is to be held in San Francisco during July 29-August 2. Further details may be obtained from the Department of Conferences, University of California, Berkeley 4, California, U.S.A.

THE annual course in tropical hygiene for laymen will be held by the Ross Institute this year during July 15-19. The course, for which there is no fee, is intended for those whose work in the tropics makes them responsible for the health and welfare of others. Further information can be obtained from the organizing secretary, L. G. Ponsford, Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street (Gower Street), London, W.C.1.

THE next Nuclear Physics Conference of the Physical Society will be held during July 17-18 in the Physical Laboratories of the University of Manchester. It will be organized by Prof. S. Devons. There will probably be five sessions, on static nuclear properties, nuclear dynamics, nuclear forces, meson physics and beta decay. Anyone wishing to contribute a paper to this meeting should write to Dr. J. M. Calvert, Physical Laboratories, The University, Manchester 13.

THE National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council's Division of Anthropology and Psychology has announced that, at the request of the United States Air Force Air Research and Development Command, a two-day International Symposium on "Military Psychology" will be held in Brussels at the Palais des Beaux Arts on July 26 and 27, immediately prior to the opening of the fifteenth International Congress of Psychology. The programme is being planned by an international committee under the chairmanship of Prof. F. A. Geldard of the University of Virginia, who will serve also as general chairman of the Symposium. The programme will consist of papers on military psychological research topics by psychologists from several Western European countries, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Symposium will be open to the public.

THE eleventh General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics is to be held at Toronto during September 3-14. The main topic will be the International Geophysical Year, which is to begin in July. The meetings will be held at the University of Toronto, with headquarters at Hart House. In charge of arrangements is Prof. J. T. Wilson, head of the Geophysics Laboratory of the University, who is also vice-president of the Union, and to whom all inquiries should be addressed. Subjects to be discussed include: the age of the Earth; polar wandering; climatic cycles; measuring distances between continents by radar; the origin of cosmic rays; sun-spots and solar flares; atmospheric jet streams; the true shape of the Earth; magnetic storms and radio communications; rocket exploration of the upper atmosphere; auroras; glaciers; the cause of airglow; the Earth's interior; deep ocean currents; artificial satellites; and methods of geophysical prospecting.