

ment of Scientific and Industrial Research to the Department of Physics, £4,000 for experimental research in nuclear physics and cosmic radiation, £3,600 for experimental research into flights with free balloons of long duration at 100,000 ft., and £3,100 for work on measurement in relativistic quantum theory; from the National Coal Board to the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, £1,000 and £750 for the study of the reactivity of carbon surfaces with oxygen and a study of the structure of active carbons, respectively; a bequest from the late Miss Nebendahl of £1,000 to the University's Cancer Research Fund; from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to the Department of Organic Chemistry, £866 for research on chlorogenic acid and closely related compounds, and £600 for continuation of research on cell-wall carbohydrates of plums. The University is also to receive a bequest from Mrs. A. M. Fertel of an estate valued at more than £5,000 to found one or more studentships for the furtherance of experimental research in physics, preferably in nuclear physics, to be known as Geoffrey E. Fertel Studentships, in memory of her son, who was a member of staff of the Department of Physics.

#### Glasgow

DR. D. C. GILLES has been appointed director of the Electronic Computer Laboratory and is now in residence at Glasgow. He will have charge of the Scottish mercury computer, delivery of which may be expected next year, when it is to be housed in the Chemistry Department.

Drs. R. Hodges and A. I. Scott have been appointed lecturers in chemistry, and Dr. D. H. Watson to an Imperial Chemical Industries fellowship in chemistry.

The Wellcome Trustees have made a grant, of up to £50,000, for the building of a Small Animals Experimental Research Unit at the Veterinary Hospital, Garscube. Work has begun on the second stage of development of the extensions to the Natural Philosophy building.

For the present session four hundred new students (304 men and 96 women) have been admitted to the science departments. Over the University as a whole, the total number of matriculated students now stands at 6,090, compared with about 5,920 a year ago.

#### London

THE title of professor emeritus in biometry in the University of London has been conferred on Prof. J. B. S. Haldane.

Dr. Stephen Dyonis Elek has been appointed to the chair of bacteriology, tenable at St. George's Hospital Medical School, from October 1, 1957.

#### The Night Sky in December

FULL moon occurs on Dec. 7d. 06h. 16m. U.T., and new moon on Dec. 21d. 06h. 12m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Dec. 16d. 18h., Jupiter  $2^{\circ}$  N.; Dec. 18d. 21h., Mars  $1^{\circ}$  S.; Dec. 24d. 18h., Venus  $6^{\circ}$  S. Mercury is visible at the beginning of the month as an evening star low in the west after sunset, but conditions are unfavourable for observation. Venus sets at 18h. 55m., 19h. 10m. and 19h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; during this time its distance from the Earth decreases from 53 to 34 million miles, the visible portion of the apparent disk from 0.428 to 0.201, and its stellar

magnitude is about  $-4.3$ . It is a brilliant object in the south-west after sunset; greatest brightness is on December 23. Mars rises at about 5h. 35m. throughout the month; it is in Libra until December 25, when it enters Scorpius, being near  $\beta$  Scorpii at the end of the month. Jupiter rises at 3h. 30m., 2h. 50m. and 2h. 00m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and is east of Spica. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is  $-1.4$ , its distance from the Earth on December 15 being 550 million miles. Saturn is too close to the Sun for observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Dec. 12h. 0h. 23.5m.,  $\omega$  Leo. *m.* (*R*); Dec. 26d. 20h. 33.7m.,  $\kappa$  Aqr. (*D*). *R* and *D* refer to reappearance and disappearance, respectively. The Geminid meteors are active during December 9-14, but conditions are not very favourable. The Ursids are active during December 21-22, and conditions are very favourable; the radiant is at R.A. 14h. 28m., Dec.  $+76^{\circ}$  N. The winter solstice occurs on Dec. 22d. 03h.

#### Announcements

A HOUSE of Scientific Technique, which will accommodate more than twenty scientific bodies under the same roof, is to be built in Budapest at a cost of £600,000, to be paid by a government grant. Several stories high, the House, which is due to be completed in 1960, will have club rooms, lecture halls, libraries, a modern theatre, a gymnasium and a restaurant.

THE Royal Society is prepared to consider applications from scientific societies for grants towards the travelling expenses of scientists (particularly young scientists in the United Kingdom) attending ordinary or special meetings, or congresses, held in the United Kingdom. Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

THE complete proceedings of the International Symposium on Macromolecular Chemistry, held in Prague during September 9-15, will be published in the spring of 1958 as two or three special numbers of the *Journal of Polymer Sciences*.

A PHYSICAL SOCIETY conference on "Band Theory of Metals and the Structure of the Fermi Surface" will be held in the Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7, on December 19 and 20.

AN international colloquium on "Optics in Metrology" will be held in Brussels during May 6-9, 1958, under the auspices of the International Commission for Optics. Further information can be obtained from M. P. Mollet, Comité Belge d'Optique, 128 Rue du Sport, Gand, Belgium.

THE Third International Congress on Rheology will be held in Bad Oeynhausen, Germany, during September 23-30, 1958. Contributions are invited for this Congress and a 100-200 word abstract of any proposed paper should be sent by January 1, 1958, to the Congress secretary, Dr. W. Meskat, Bahnhofstrasse 9, Dormagen, Near Cologne.

ERRATUM. In the communication entitled "Further Radio Observations of the First Satellite" by Norman Lea in *Nature* of November 9, p. 943, the lower figure on the vertical axis of Fig. 1 should read 1,600 [c./s. above 40 Mc./s.], and not 1,500 as printed.