

the National Economy", will be delivered by Dr. J. Bronowski, director, Coal Research Establishment, National Coal Board, on October 25, at 7 p.m., in the Manchester Town Hall. The chairman will be Prof. R. G. W. Norrish, with the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Leslie Lever, as principal guest. Admission is by ticket only, obtainable from Dr. R. E. Fairbairn, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Dyestuffs Division), Hexagon House, Blackley, Manchester 9.

THE Dalton Exhibition, entitled "Coal and Coal Chemicals in the National Economy", and organized by the Royal Institute of Chemistry, will be held in the Exhibition Hall, Central Library, Manchester, during October 21-26. The opening hours from Monday to Friday are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and on Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free and the Exhibition is open to the general public.

#### Smoke Abatement Society : Annual Conference

THE twenty-fourth annual conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society will be held in Hastings during October 2-4, under the presidency of Dr. R. Lessing, who will speak on "The Primary Sources of Air Pollution". Speakers include Lord Mills (Minister of Power) and Sir Graham Sutton, who will deliver the eighth Des Voeux Memorial Lecture, on "Air Pollution and the Weather". There will also be discussions on air pollution from road vehicles and on the administration of the Clean Air Act. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, London, S.W.1.

#### Institute of Biology : Parasitology Group

A PARASITOLOGY Group has recently been formed, under the auspices of the Institute of Biology, to provide a forum for the discussion of broad problems in parasitology. A meeting on "The Nature of Immune Responses in Parasitism" is to be held in the rooms of the Royal Entomological Society, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m. on October 18. The papers will deal with immune responses to micro-organisms, nematodes and arthropod-borne infections. Further information can be obtained from the secretary of the Parasitology Group, Dr. Elizabeth Canning, Parasitology Department, Imperial College, London, S.W.7.

#### The Night Sky in October

FULL moon occurs on October 8d. 21h. 42m. U.T., and new moon on October 23d. 04h. 43m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: October 26d. 04h., Saturn  $1^{\circ}$  S.; October 26d. 15h., Venus  $6^{\circ}$  S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Antares on October 17d. 20h., Venus being  $2.1^{\circ}$  N., Venus with Saturn on October 20d. 12h., Venus being  $4.1^{\circ}$  S., and Mars with Spica on October 28d. 02h., Mars being  $2.9^{\circ}$  N. There will be a total eclipse of the Sun on October 23, invisible at Greenwich. Mercury is visible as a morning star during the first week of the month, rising at 4h. 25m. on October 1; superior conjunction is reached on October 24. Venus sets at 18h. 45m., 18h. 30m. and 18h. 20m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; during this time its distance from the Earth decreases from

96 to 75 million miles, but its brightness increases more slowly because the visible portion of the apparent disk falls from 0.695 to 0.578. It is a bright object low in the west after sunset. Mars and Jupiter are too close to the Sun for observation. Saturn is visible low in the west after sunset, setting about two hours after the Sun. Its stellar magnitude is  $+0.8$ ; it continues to move eastwards in Ophiuchus. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: October 2d. 21h. 27.2m.,  $\beta$  Cap. (*D*); October 2d. 22h. 31.6m.,  $\beta$  Cap. (*R*); October 3d. 22h. 36.7m.,  $\nu$  Aqr. (*D*); October 16d. 4h. 56.3m.,  $\lambda$  Gem. (*D*); October 16d. 5h. 32.8m.,  $\lambda$  Gem. (*R*); October 18d. 3h. 36.4m.,  $\times$  Cnc. (*R*); *R* and *D* refer to reappearance and disappearance, respectively. The Orionid meteors are active during October 15-25; conditions are favourable and the radiant is at R.A. 6h. 24m., Dec.  $+15^{\circ}$  N.

#### Announcements

PROF. A. A. MILES, professor of experimental pathology in the University of London and director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, London, and Prof. C. H. Stuart-Harris, Sir George Franklin professor of medicine in the University of Sheffield, have been appointed members of the Medical Research Council.

DR. M. V. WILKES has been elected first president of the British Computer Society. Dr. Wilkes is a pioneer of the design and construction of automatic electronic digital calculating machines in Britain, and joint author of "Preparation of Programmes for an Electronic Digital Computer" (1951), the first text-book for programmers. In addition to his most recent book, "Automatic Digital Computers", Dr. Wilkes is the author of many papers on computers and their applications, and the computing art owes much to his work as director of the Cambridge University Mathematical Laboratory.

A SYMPOSIUM on "The Newer Metals", arranged jointly by the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Chemical Society and the Society of Chemical Industry, will be held in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, University of Manchester, on October 2, commencing at 2.30 p.m. The symposium, which will be arranged in two sessions devoted respectively to beryllium, and to zirconium and niobium, is open to all, but those intending to be present should notify Dr. R. E. Fairbairn, I.C.I. (Dyestuffs Division), Hexagon House, Blackley, Manchester 9.

A CONFERENCE organized by Aslib, intended to bring together those most concerned in formulating policies for the technical college libraries of the future and representatives of industry, will be held in the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, on October 30. During the morning session, under the chairmanship of Alderman J. W. Brown, Sir Edward Boyle will give the opening address, the Earl of Verulam will speak on "Libraries: a Liberal Element in Technical Education", and S. T. Broad on "A Technical Library Service". In the afternoon the chairman will be Sir Wavell Wakefield and the lectures are on "The Technical College Library as an Educational Instrument" by Dr. J. Topping and "Co-operation with Local Industry" by P. P. Love. Further information can be obtained from Aslib, 4 Palace Gate, London, W.8.