

ships: K. J. Durrands (mechanical engineering), Dr. G. J. Lawson (mining).

#### Exeter

THE following appointments in the University of Exeter have recently been announced: Dr. D. C. Collins, to be senior lecturer in education; Dr. L. H. Long, to be senior lecturer in chemistry; and Dr. J. Wilkinson, to be senior lecturer in botany. The following have also been appointed lecturers: Dr. S. A. J. Tarr, in botany; and Mr. K. Coe, in geology.

#### London

DR. G. CHAPMAN, lecturer in zoology at Queen Mary College, has been appointed to the University chair of zoology tenable at Queen Elizabeth College. The title of reader in the University has been conferred on Dr. M. G. Fleming (mineral dressing), and on Dr. H. H. Hopkins (optics), in respect of their posts at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

The following have been elected to fellowships of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London: Prof. Emeritus H. V. A. Briscoe, formerly professor of inorganic and physical chemistry at the College; Mr. C. A. Bristow, president of the Imperial College Boat Club; Prof. Emeritus V. C. Illing, formerly professor of geology (oil technology) at the College; The Hon. H. Fletcher Moulton, member of the Governing Body of the College; Prof. Emeritus A. J. S. Pippard, formerly professor of civil engineering at the College; and Dr. S. L. Smith, director of research, British Shipbuilding Research Association.

#### The Night Sky in May

FULL moon occurs on May 3d. 12h. 23m. U.T., and new moon on May 18d. 19h. 00m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: May 2d. 09h., Jupiter 2° N.; May 6d. 10h., Saturn 3° S.; May 12d. 15h., Mars 6° S.; May 15d. 00h., Venus 4° S.; May 29d. 14h., Jupiter 2° N. There will be a partial eclipse of the Moon on May 3, invisible at Greenwich. Mercury is too close to the Sun for observation. Venus is a morning star, visible low in the south-east before sunrise, but conditions for observation are not very favourable. It rises at 3h. 25m., 3h. 00m. and 2h. 30m. on May 1, 15 and 31, respectively; its stellar magnitude is about -3.6. During the month its distance from the Earth increases from 80 to 102 million miles and the visible portion of the apparent disk from 0.600 to 0.718. Mars rises at 2h. 50m., 2h. 15m. and 1h. 30m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It is visible low in the south-east before sunrise, but conditions for observation are not very favourable; its stellar magnitude is about +0.8. Jupiter sets at 4h. 15m., 3h. 20m. and 2h. 10m. on May 1, 15 and 31, respectively; it is near Spica. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is -1.9, its distance from the Earth on May 15 being 420 million miles. Saturn rises at 23h. 05m., 22h. 10m. and 21h. 00m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; it is near  $\theta$  Ophiuchi. Its stellar magnitude is +0.4 and it is at a distance of 850 million miles from the Earth on May 15. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: May 29d. 22h. 36.1m., 86 Vir. (*D*); May 31d. 01h. 06.5m., 8 Lib. (*D*); May 31d. 01h. 12.1m.,  $\alpha$  Lib. (*D*). *D* refers to disappearance.

#### Announcements

PROF. J. BRACHET, of the Free University of Brussels, has been awarded the Charles Léopold Mayer Prize for 1957 of the Société de Chimie Biologique, for his work on the location of nucleoproteins within living cells. The Prize, which is awarded annually, has a value of 500,000 francs.

PROF. R. S. HUTTON, formerly Goldsmiths' professor of metallurgy in the University of Cambridge, has been awarded the Institute of Metals Medal in Platinum in recognition of his outstanding work in connexion with the science and practice of non-ferrous metallurgy. Dr. J. H. Hollomon, manager of the Metallurgy and Ceramics Research Department of the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, has been awarded the Rosenhain Medal of the Institute of Metals in recognition of his outstanding contributions to knowledge in the field of physical metallurgy.

The first Hulton Achievement Award has been presented by Sir Edward Hulton to the members of the team at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, who created ZETA. The award, which consists of a silver trophy, a cheque for £1,000 and an inscribed silver medal, was presented to Dr. P. C. Thonemann, head of the ZETA research team. The other members of the group, who share in the award, are Dr. R. Bickerton, Mr. E. P. Butt, Mr. R. Carruthers, Dr. A. N. Dellis, Mr. D. W. Fry, Dr. A. Gibson, Mr. G. N. Harding, Mr. D. J. Lees, Mr. R. W. P. McWhirter, Mr. J. T. D. Mitchell, Mr. R. S. Pease, Dr. S. A. Ramsden, Mr. R. Tayler, Dr. W. B. Thompson and Mr. S. Ward.

IN a written answer on April 17 to a question in the House of Commons, the Minister of Education said that projects costing some £2 million have been included in the 1958-59 building programme for additional science accommodation for grammar and technical schools; but he could not say how many grammar schools at present lack adequate science laboratories.

THE next meeting of the Biochemical Society will be held in the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Edinburgh on May 17. Further information can be obtained from Dr. P. N. Campbell, Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London, W.1.

THE Department of Industrial Metallurgy, University of Birmingham, is holding a conference on "The Pressure Welding of Metals" at the University on June 19. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Industrial Metallurgy, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15.

THE International Commission for Uniform Methods of Sugar Analysis is to hold its twelfth session at the National Bureau of Standards and the Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D.C., during June 2-6. Further information can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Dr. D. Gross, Tate and Lyle Research Laboratories, Keston, Kent.

THE annual meeting and summer conference of the Society for Applied Bacteriology will be held in Bristol during July 7-10. Papers will be read on a variety of aspects of applied bacteriology, with the emphasis on the microbiology of fruit and vegetables. Further information can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mr. G. Sykes, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Microbiology Division, Standards Department, Nottingham.