

Feb. 14d. 12h., Mars 5° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Venus on Feb. 7d. 07h., Mercury being 9.6° S. Mercury is too close to the Sun for normal observation. Venus is a morning star, visible low in the south-east before sunrise. It rises at 6h. 25m. and 4h. 55m. on February 15 and 28, respectively. Mars rises at 5h. 20m., 5h. 10m. and 4h. 55m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; it is visible in the south-east before sunrise. Jupiter rises at 0h. 10m., 23h. 15m. and 22h. 25m. on February 1, 15 and 28, respectively; it is east of Spica, and is stationary on February 16. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is -1.8, its distance from the Earth on February 15 being 460 million miles. Saturn rises at 4h. 45m., 3h. 55m. and 3h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; it is near  $\theta$  Ophiuchi. It has a stellar magnitude of +0.8 and a distance of 980 million miles from the Earth on February 15. There are no occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 visible at Greenwich.

### Announcements

MR. R. R. BLACKWOOD, general manager of the Dunlop Rubber Co. of Australia, formerly professor of mechanical engineering in the University of Melbourne, has been appointed chairman of the interim Council of the new University of Victoria. It is also expected that he will be the first chancellor of the University when it becomes established (see p. 300 of this issue).

DR. J. A. FRASER ROBERTS, director of the Medical Research Council Clinical Genetics Research Unit, Institute of Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1, has been elected president of the Royal Anthropological Institute for the years 1957-59.

DR. M. C. R. SYMONS, lecturer in chemistry in the University of Southampton, has been appointed visiting associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of British Columbia for the period January 1-June 30.

THE following appointments in the Ontario Research Council Foundation have been announced: Dr. A. E. R. Westman to be director of research of the Foundation, Dr. H. B. Marshall to be director, Department of Chemistry, and Dr. S. G. Reid to be an assistant director in that Department.

THE Fifteenth International Horticultural Congress will be held in Nice during April 11-18, under the presidency of M. Henri Queuille. The theme will be "Science in the Service of Horticultural Techniques". Further information can be obtained from M. le Secrétaire général du XV<sup>e</sup> Congrès International d'Horticulture, 84 rue de Grenelle, Paris 7<sup>e</sup>.

THE fifth Easter School in Agricultural Science will be a symposium and colloquium on "The Nutrition of the Legumes". It will be held at the University of Nottingham School of Agriculture, Sutton Bonington, near Loughborough, Leicestershire, during April 14-17. Further information can be obtained from the conference secretary, Mr. E. A. N. Greenwood, at the above address.

THE first international symposium organized by the International Collegium for Neuro-Psycho-

pharmacology will be held in Rome during September 9-12. In addition to organized symposia, there will be certain sessions devoted to original communications. Those interested in presenting papers should send a 250-word abstract before March 31 to Dr. P. B. Bradley, Department of Experimental Psychiatry, The Medical School, Birmingham 15, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

THE Radiation Research Visiting Club is holding a meeting in Cambridge on March 20 and 21 on the theme of the action of high-energy radiation on solids. Further details may be obtained from Dr. A. J. Swallow, Tube Investments Research Laboratories, Hinxton Hall, nr. Saffron Walden, Essex.

THE South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies is organizing a conference on conserving wild life and amenities in the south-east of England, to be held at the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, N.W., on April 12, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Cranbrook. Each member society is being invited to nominate two delegates to attend the discussions, which, it is hoped, will lead to the formation of Naturalists' Trusts for each county represented.

THE second symposium of the Reticuloendothelial Society (New England Institute for Medical Research, Ridgefield, Connecticut) will be held in Rapallo, during August 29-31. It is intended to discuss the subject under three main headings—the reticuloendothelial system and steroids; the reticuloendothelial system and immunity, including antibody immunity and properdin, and tumour immunity; and the reticuloendothelial system and radiation. As in the first symposium, which was held in France at Gif-sur-Yvette in 1956, attendance at the symposium will be limited. Proposed titles of papers from intending participants should be sent, accompanied by a brief summary in English, before March 15, to Dr. Alberto Marmont, Clinica Medica Universitaria, Viale Benedetto XV, Genoa, Italy, to whom inquiries may be addressed.

THE Medical Research Council states that in future all requests for compounds in the Steroid Reference Collection should be addressed to Dr. W. Klyne at the Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London, W.12, and not to the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill. As a result of generous gifts from two industrial firms, larger supplies of oestriol and 16-epi-oestriol (Organon Laboratories) and very limited supplies of racemic aldosterone (Ciba AG, Basel) are now available; these materials are intended for chemical reference purposes, and not for clinical work.

THE authors of the first article on "Controlled Release of Thermonuclear Energy", entitled "Production of High Temperatures and Nuclear Reactions in a Gas Discharge" (*Nature*, January 25, p. 217), wish to add the following acknowledgments: (1) investigations leading up to the present results have been constantly encouraged and supported by Sir John Cockcroft, Sir George Thomson and the late Lord Cherwell; (2) invaluable assistance has been given by their colleagues at Harwell and at the Research Laboratory of the Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd., Aldermaston; (3) the erection and maintenance of ZETA has been under the control of J. T. D. Mitchell, of the Engineering Division.