

the month its distance from the Earth increases from 58 to 80 million miles and the visible portion of the apparent disk from 0.450 to 0.600. Mars rises at 4h. 00m., 3h. 30m. and 2h. 50m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It is visible low in the south-east before sunrise, but conditions are not very favourable; its stellar magnitude is +1.0. Jupiter rises at 20h. 05m., 19h. 00m. and 17h. 45m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively, and sets at 4h. 20m. on April 30; it is visible throughout the night. Opposition is on April 17; the planet is near Spica. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is -2.0, its distance from the Earth on April 15 being 410 million miles. Saturn rises at 1h. 05m., 0h. 10m. and 23h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; it is east of  $\theta$  Ophiuchi. Its stellar magnitude is +0.6 and it is at a distance of 890 million miles from the Earth on April 15. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: April 6d. 04h. 20.5m.,  $\alpha$  Lib. (*D*); April 25d. 20h. 34.9m., 68 Gem. (*D*). *D* refers to disappearance. The Lyrid meteors are active during April 20-22. Conditions are very favourable; the radiant is near right ascension 18h. 04m., declination +33°.

#### Announcements

THE Council of the Royal Microscopical Society has made the following elections to honorary fellowship of the Society: Dr. Edwin H. Land, president of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in recognition of his contributions to microscopy; Dr. Maria Rooseboom, curator, National Museum for the History of Science, Leyden, in recognition of her valuable work in connexion with the history of microscopy.

THE Council of the Iron and Steel Institute has announced the following awards for 1958: Bessemer Gold Medal for 1958, to Mr. W. F. Cartwright (Steel Company of Wales, Ltd.); Sir Robert Hadfield Medal for 1958, to Mr. W. C. F. Hesseberg (British Iron and Steel Research Association); Ablett Prizes for 1957, £50 each to Mr. C. E. H. Morris and Mr. R. N. Dale (Steel Company of Wales, Ltd.), for their paper, "Planning the Conversion of a High-lift Slabbing Mill to a Universal Mill" (*J. Iron and Steel Inst.*, April 1957).

DR. B. R. NIJHAWAN, director of the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, has been given the award of 'Padma Shri' by the President of the Republic of India, in recognition of his exceptionally distinguished services in the field of science in India.

MR. J. D. HANDYSIDE has been appointed controller of research, National Institute of Industrial Psychology, with effect from April 1.

THE Institution of British Agricultural Engineers is able to offer, through the generosity of Shell Mex and B.P., Ltd., a number of bursaries for award to candidates eligible for entry to the final-year course of study leading to the examination in July 1959 for the National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering. These bursaries are normally available in units of £50, but their disbursement may be varied at the discretion of the Examination Board. The conditions governing the award may be obtained from the Secretary of the Institution of British Agricultural

Engineers, 6 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1. The closing date for receiving completed applications is May 1, 1958.

THE Physical Society is holding a conference on "Nuclear Physics" at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, on April 10-11. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, The Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

THE 1958 National Symposium of the U.S. Institute of Radio Engineers Professional Group on "Microwave Theory and Techniques" will be held at Stanford University, Stanford, California, during May 5-7. Further information can be obtained from Glenn H. Keitel, Publicity Chairman, 1958 PGMTT National Symposium, 601 California Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

THE 1958 International Conference on Semiconductors, sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, will be held at the University of Rochester, New York, during August 18-22. Further information can be obtained from M. H. Hebb, P.O. Box 1088, Schenectady, New York. Abstracts must be received by May 1.

A ONE-DAY conference on statistical sampling in industry, organized by the Birmingham Group of the Industrial Applications Section of the Royal Statistical Society, will be held at the Birmingham College of Technology on May 7. Further information can be obtained from D. Goldberg, Lamp and Lighting Co., Ltd., Melton Road, Leicester.

AN informal discussion on "The Structure and Physical Chemistry of Nucleic Acids and Nucleoproteins" will be held in the Department of Chemistry, University of Birmingham, on September 17-18, under the auspices of the Colloid and Biophysics Committee of the Faraday Society. Papers on the following topics will be read: nucleic acids (especially ribonucleic acid), synthetic polynucleotides, nucleoproteins. Members of the Faraday Society and others who wish to take part should notify Dr. A. R. Peacocke, Department of Microbiology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15, to whom titles of papers should be sent before June 1.

THE essay subjects for this year's *Endeavour* Prizes of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be as follows: education for an age of science; rockets and satellites and their scientific significance; photography and cinematography in science; chemicals from petroleum; Darwinism to-day; the measurement of time. The essays must be sent in by June 1 and should not exceed four thousand words. Competitors must be less than twenty-five years old, and the prizes will be 50, 25 and 15 guineas, with two special awards of 5 guineas to those less than eighteen. Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

ERRATA. Referring to the article entitled "Non-conservation of Parity" in *Nature* of February 15, Prof. A. Salam writes: "p. 448 (*Id*), column 2, line 5, for 'right' read 'left'; (*e*) for subscript '*L*' read '*R*'. I am grateful to Dr. J. R. Holt for pointing out these errors".