

courses on nuclear energy. Designed for the teaching staffs of universities and higher technical colleges, each course will accept about fifty applicants, who will have the opportunity to study the latest advances in nuclear science and techniques, to do certain practical work, and to visit nuclear installations. The costs of these courses, both of which will run during July 20–31, are being borne by the European Nuclear Energy Agency, and participants will only be required to pay travel and living expenses.

The Night Sky in May

New moon occurs on May 7d. 20h. 11m. U.T. and full moon on May 22d. 12h. 56m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: May 11d. 14h., Venus 7° N.; May 13d. 03h., Mars 7° N.; May 22d. 06h., Jupiter 3° S.; May 24d. 21h., Saturn 4° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mars is in conjunction with Pollux on May 21d. 06h., Mars being 5.3° S., and Venus with Pollux on May 31d. 18h., Venus being 4.2° S. Mercury is too close to the Sun for observation. Venus is an evening star, visible in the south-west after sunset. Conditions are very favourable for observation. Venus sets at 23h. 00m., 23h. 20m. and 23h. 25m. on May 1, 15 and 31, respectively; its stellar magnitude is -3.7 . Its distance decreases during the month from 104 to 82 million miles and the visible portion of the disk decreases from 0.734 to 0.607. Mars is moving eastwards among the stars and is in Gemini during May. It sets at 0h. 40m., 0h. 10m. and 23h. 35m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Its stellar magnitude decreases from $+1.6$ to $+1.9$ during the month, its distance from the Earth increasing from 173 to 197 million miles. Jupiter rises at 21h. 00m., 19h. 55m. and 18h. 30m. on May 1, 15 and 31, respectively, setting at 5h. 35m., 4h. 35m. and 3h. 20m. It is in Libra. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is -2.1 ; its distance from the Earth on May 15 is approximately 410 million miles. Saturn is in Sagittarius, rising at 0h. 00m., 23h. 05m. and 21h. 55m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is $+0.5$ and its distance approximately 870 million miles. The only occultation of a star brighter than magnitude 6 is that of 115 Tau, on May 10d. 20h. 08.3m. (disappearance at Greenwich).

Announcements

LORD ROTHSCHILD is joining the Board of 'Shell' Research, Ltd., on May 1 as part-time adviser on research. He is an assistant director of research in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge; until recently, he was chairman of the Agricultural Research Council, a post he occupied for ten years.

DR. WALTER R. BEAM, manager of microwave advanced development in the Electron Tube Division of the Radio Corporation of America, has been appointed head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York.

AN English translation of the *Astronomical Journal of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.*, issued in six parts annually, is being published by the American Institute of Physics in co-operation with the National Science Foundation, under the title *Soviet Astronomy—AJ*. The annual subscription is 25 dollars in the United States, or 27 dollars elsewhere, with special

rates for university libraries. Orders and inquiries should be addressed to Translation Journals—AJ, 335 East 45 Street, New York 17.

THE Glasshouse Crops Research Institute, Worthing Road, Rustington, Littlehampton, Sussex, will hold an open day on June 10. Particulars can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute.

A CONFERENCE on the Electric Arc in Welding will be held at the University of Birmingham on June 25. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Industrial Metallurgy, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

AN exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the death of Isambard Kingdom Brunel will be held in the main entrance hall of the Engineering Laboratory, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, during May 18–June 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. The exhibition will consist mainly of drawings and photographs of Brunel's principal works.

AN exhibition of photometric instruments and microscopes applicable to most industrial processes and almost every branch of medicine, science and research will be held during May 11–21 in the show-rooms of Degenhardt and Co., Ltd., United Kingdom agents for Carl Zeiss, at 6 Cavendish Square, London, W.1. Throughout the exhibition four technical experts from the Zeiss works at Oberkochen will be in attendance to give advice on the applications of the instruments.

THE Editorial Board of the *Journal of Embryology and Experimental Morphology* is sponsoring the fourth of its series of International Embryological Conferences at the Collège de France, Paris, during September 21–24. Details of its organization and scientific programme will be available on June 1 and can then be obtained from Prof. E. Wolff, Laboratoire d'Embryologie Experimentale, 49bis Avenue de la Belle Gabrielle, Nogent-sur-Marne, France, or from Dr. L. Brent, Department of Zoology, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, England.

THE 1959 conference of the Operational Research Society will be held at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, during June 10–12. The fee is £15. The object of the conference is to provide an opportunity to explore and discuss possible directions for the future development of operational research, particularly in the fields of communications and decision making. Copies of the programme and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Operational Research Society, 64 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

THE fourth International Conference on Ionization Phenomena in Gases will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, during August 17–21. The conference is being arranged by the University of Uppsala in collaboration with the Swedish National Committee for Physics. The main subjects will be: 1, fundamental processes in gas discharges; 2, high-frequency discharges; 3, glow discharges; 4, arc discharges; 5, spark discharges; 6, high-temperature plasmas and controlled fusion; 7, instabilities and oscillations in gas discharges; 8, new methods of measurements. Abstracts, not longer than 350 words, should be received by June 15. Further information can be obtained from the secretary general, Dr. Åke Nilsson, Institute of Physics, Uppsala.