

a gas bubble (in a slurry of plaster of paris, water, and 'Alka-Seltzer') was observed. In Gaydon and Learner's experiments, the crater wall was built up quite slowly by a continuous fountain of falling dust. The latter experiment is more related to volcanic action, but assumes a fall of dust or ash, as at Pompeii, rather than a flow of molten lava. A flow of lava would be expected to build a high mountain, whereas the fall of dust could form a shallow crater of large diameter.

Supplies of Follicle-stimulating Hormone

THE Endocrinology Study Section, U.S. National Institutes of Health, announces that it is prepared to distribute, free of charge to qualified investigators, limited amounts of purified sheep pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone. The preparation has been packaged in two forms: (1) vials containing 5 mgm. for use only as a standard in assay procedures; (2) vials containing 25 mgm., for experimental use. The preparation is a sterile, lyophilized powder, free or nearly free of other hormonal activities. Detailed specifications will be distributed with each sample. Application for supplies should be made to the executive secretary, Dr. R. T. Hill, Endocrinology Study Section, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Maryland, with a brief outline of the intended work and an estimate of the amount needed. Allocations will be made after consideration of the merits of the intended work.

The Night Sky in April

NEW moon occurs on April 8d. 03h. 29m. u.t. and full moon on April 23d. 05h. 13m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: April 11d. 06h., Venus 5° N.; April 14d. 11h., Mars 7° N.; April 25d. 00h., Jupiter 3° S.; April 27d. 14h., Saturn 4° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Aldebaran on April 23d. 14h., Venus being 7.2° N. There will be an annular eclipse of the Sun on April 8, invisible at Greenwich. The path of annularity crosses Australia. Mercury is unfavourably placed for observation. Venus is an evening star, visible in the south-west after sunset. Conditions are very favourable for observation. Venus sets at 21h. 35m., 22h. 20m. and 23h. 00m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively; its stellar magnitude is -3.5 . Its distance decreases during the month from 122 to 104 million miles and the visible portion of the visible disk decreases from 0.828 to 0.734. Mars is moving eastwards among the stars and passes from Taurus into Gemini during April. It sets at 1h. 25m., 1h. 05m. and 0h. 40m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Its stellar magnitude decreases from $+1.3$ to $+1.6$, its distance from the Earth increasing from 148 to 173 million miles. Jupiter rises at 23h. 10m., 22h. 10m. and 21h. 00m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively; it is near β Scorpii. The stellar magnitude of Jupiter is -2.0 ; its distance on April 15 is approximately 420 million miles. Saturn is a morning star in Sagittarius, rising at 2h. 00m., 1h. 05m. and 0h. 00m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is $+0.7$; its distance from the Earth on April 15 is approximately 910 million miles. There are no occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 observable from Greenwich. The Lyrid meteors are active during April 20-22, but conditions are unfavourable.

Announcements

THE 1958 James Clayton Prize of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers has been awarded jointly to William Munger Heynes (director and chief engineer, Jaguar Cars, Ltd., Coventry) for his outstanding contribution to the design and development of the modern automobile, and to Sir F. Ewart Smith (deputy chairman, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.) for his personal contribution to the advancement of mechanical engineering, particularly in the chemical industry, and to the training of engineers. This prize is awarded annually to a member or members of the Institution who, in the opinion of the Council, contribute most in the year to modern engineering science by research, invention, experimental work or a treatise or paper on a modern engineering subject, or originality in engineering design or by service to engineering.

HARRY POLACHEK, technical director of the Applied Mathematics Laboratory of the David Taylor Model Basin, has recently been appointed chairman of the editorial committee for the quarterly journal *Mathematical Tables and Other Aids to Computation*, published by the Division of Mathematics of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. He succeeds C. B. Tompkins of the University of California at Los Angeles, who has held the post since November 1954. Articles for publication in the journal should in future be addressed to Harry Polachek, editor, *Mathematical Tables and Other Aids to Computation*, David Taylor Model Basin, Washington 7, D.C.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Oxidation" is to be held in Queen Mary College, London, on April 13 and 14. It is intended to provide an opportunity for discussing the present state of knowledge of the oxidation of organic compounds in the liquid phase and in particular by chromic acid and permanganate. Inquiries can be addressed to Dr. W. J. Hickinbottom, Department of Chemistry, Queen Mary College, London, E.1.

THE tenth Conference of the British Occupational Hygiene Society will be held in Stephenson Hall, University of Sheffield, Oakholme Road, Sheffield, 10, during April 14-15. The Conference, which will be devoted to a discussion of the control of dust and fumes in industry, is to be opened by H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories. Papers will be presented by speakers with experience of the subject in the cotton and asbestos industries, in iron foundries, in welding and electro-plating. Non-members are eligible to attend this conference on payment of a registration fee. Further details can be obtained from the honorary scientific secretary, Dr. D. Turner, The Associated Ethyl Company, Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

THE third meeting of the Welsh Soils Discussion Group will be held on April 19 at the National Agricultural Advisory Service Centre at Trawscoed, near Aberystwyth, when Dr. Rice Williams will open a discussion on "The Soils of the Aberystwyth Area" and arrange for local field inspection of selected soil series. This meeting will occupy most of the day, and arrangements will be made for lunch at Trawscoed. Members of the Group, and others interested, can obtain further information from the secretary of the Group, Mr. J. A. Taylor, Department of Geography, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.