

Institute of Basic Medical Sciences. Dr. D. L. J. Bilbey, assistant professor of anatomy in the University of Toronto, and Dr. R. M. H. McMinn, lecturer in the University of Sheffield, have been appointed to readerships in anatomy tenable at King's College.

The title of professor of economics in the University of London has been conferred on Mr. B. S. Yamey in respect of his post at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The title of reader in physics in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. D. M. MacKay in respect of his post at King's College.

#### Southampton

THE Institution of Structural Engineers is to provide funds for the establishment of a readership in structural engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering of the University. The Institution will make available £2,000 per annum for seven years at the end of which period the Council will be responsible for the appointment.

#### Borough Polytechnic, London

THE following appointments in the Borough Polytechnic have been made: G. Isserlis, senior lecturer in charge of the Division of Metal Science; Dr. D. B. Smith, senior lecturer in food technology; S. N. Houldsworth, lecturer in chemical engineering; Dr. B. E. Weller, lecturer in physical chemistry; Dr. H. W. Hykin, lecturer in mechanical engineering.

#### The Night Sky in February

FULL moon occurs on Feb. 12d. 17h. 24m. U.T., and new moon on Feb. 26d. 18h. 24m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Feb. 6d. 16h., Aldebaran  $0.5^\circ$  S.; Feb. 22d. 00h., Jupiter  $5^\circ$  S.; Feb. 23d. 04h., Saturn  $4^\circ$  S.; Feb. 24d. 07h., Mars  $5^\circ$  S.; Feb. 24d. 13h., Venus  $4^\circ$  S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Saturn on Feb. 7d. 11h., Venus being  $0.2^\circ$  N., and Venus with Mars on Feb. 17d. 03h., Venus being  $1.1^\circ$  N. Mercury can be seen as an evening star during the later part of the month, setting at 19h. 15m. on February 25. It reaches greatest eastern elongation on February 23. Venus is a morning star, rising about 2 hr. before the Sun at the beginning of the month. Later in the month it becomes too close to the Sun for observation. Mars is badly placed for observation, rising about an hour before the Sun. Jupiter is a morning star, rising at 5h. 00m., 4h. 20m. and 3h. 35m. on February 1, 15 and 29, respectively. It may be seen low in the south-east before sunrise; its stellar magnitude is  $-1.5$ . Saturn is also a morning star, but it is still too close to the Sun for satisfactory observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Feb. 2d. 19h. 49.3m.,  $\mu$  Psc. (*D*); Feb. 6d. 14h. 26.0m., Aldebaran (*D*); Feb. 6d. 15h. 10.0m., Aldebaran (*R*); *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively.

#### "Salicylate and Potassium Fluxes of Rat Diaphragm"

We regret that certain printing errors appeared in the communication by Dr. J. A. Hicklin, published in *Nature* of Dec. 26, p. 2029. In the penultimate line of the second paragraph, the word 'active' should be deleted. In the third paragraph, the second sentence should read: "Contrary to expectation the principal effect of salicylate was consistently to

accelerate the *efflux* of potassium-42", and the fourth sentence of the paragraph refers to estimates of *influx*.

#### Announcements

THE Medical Research Council has recently established the following new research units: the Blood Coagulation Research Unit, by agreement with the United Oxford Hospitals, at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, under the part-time direction of Dr. R. G. Macfarlane; and the Environmental Radiation Research Group under the honorary direction of Prof. F. W. Spiers in the Department of Medical Physics, University of Leeds.

FOLLOWING the appointment of Captain R. A. Villiers as the first director of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain as from October 1, 1959, it has been announced that Mr. G. L. Knight has been appointed assistant director. Mr. Knight will operate under Captain Villiers in the field of information and external activities, and will be responsible for the collection and distribution of information for the Association.

A SMALL travelling exhibit on rocket astronomy has been lent to the Science Museum, London, until the end of February by the United States Naval Headquarters. Pictures show the launching of rockets and photographs of the Sun taken from the rockets. An actual camera which has been recovered after use in a rocket is included in the exhibit, which is explained by a recorded talking commentary.

THE Institute of Electrical Engineers has announced that the Faraday Lecture will be given by Prof. M. G. Say on February 17, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be entitled "Electrical Machines". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2. Admission, which will be by ticket only, is free.

AN all-day meeting of the Welsh Soils Discussion Group will be held on February 3 at University College, Aberystwyth. The programme will be introduced by Mr. J. R. Thom, director of forestry for Wales, and succeeding papers will deal with forestry and soils. Further information can be obtained from Mr. J. A. Taylor, Geography Department, University College, Aberystwyth.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Basic Questions in the Structure of Languages" will be jointly sponsored by the American Mathematical Society and the Association for Symbolic Logic at the Hotel New Yorker in New York during April 14-16. At the same time and place the American Mathematical Society is also organizing a two-day symposium on "Stability Problems in Hydrodynamics". Further information can be obtained for both symposia from the Associate Secretary, American Mathematical Society, 190 Hope Street, Providence 6, Rhode Island.

A COURSE of ten lectures entitled "Reactor Fuel Element Technology" will be given in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology on Thursday afternoons during February 11-March 17. This course is designed to lay emphasis on the industrial problems of reactor fuel-element technology. The speakers will be from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W.7.