

Research into Problems of Ageing

THE second compilation of reviews of selected papers reporting research in ageing, supported by grants from the United States National Institutes of Health or conducted in the Institutes' laboratories, has been made from reviews of more than 500 papers published during the year 1960. These articles range from fundamental work on the biology of ageing to studies concerned with the physical, psychological, and social problems of ageing people. The number of grants made to medical schools, research hospitals, and other research institutions for investigations on problems of ageing has been mounting steadily. To-day, 16 million dollars of support is being provided by the National Institutes of Health for more than 700 projects in ageing. The compilation, entitled *Research Highlights in Ageing*, can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 75, D.C., price 25 cents. (United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: Public Health Service Publication No. 854. Pp. vii + 50. 1961.)

The Plastics Institute

MR. L. M. READ, administration and services manager, Research and Development Laboratories, DCL Plastics Group, has recently been appointed chairman of the Council of the Plastics Institute. Mr. Maldwyn Jones, development director of the Plastics Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., has been appointed vice-chairman. A Building Sub-Committee to deal with all matters consistent with the objects of the Institute relating to the development of the use of plastics in building has been set up. The following are members: H. D. Atkin (Allied Structural Plastics, Ltd.), G. A. Britton (John Laing Research and Development, Ltd.), Dr. W. B. Brown (Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd.), Dr. W. Dawson (Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Plastics Division), D. Gonda (EPS (Research and Development), Ltd.), D. B. Honeyborne (Building Research Station), D. S. Mahon (Bakelite, Ltd.), Dr. Z. S. Makowski (Imperial College of Science and Technology), H. Stanley Smith (Richard Costain, Ltd.), K. Turner (chartered architect), V. H. Wentworth (Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd.).

The Night Sky in October

NEW moon occurs on Oct. 9d. 18h. 53m. *u.t.* and full moon on Oct. 23d. 21h. 31m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Oct. 5d. 21h., Regulus 0.2° N.; Oct. 7d. 08h., Venus 0.5° S.; Oct. 17d. 05h., Saturn 3° S.; Oct. 17d. 14h., Jupiter 3° S.; Oct. 26d. 17h., Aldebaran 0.6° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Mars on Oct. 11d. 20h., Mercury being 4° S. Mercury is too close to the Sun for observation. Venus is a morning star, rising at 3h. 15m., 3h. 55m. and 4h. 45m. on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Its stellar magnitude on October 15 is -3.4 , the visible portion of the apparent disk increases during the month from 0.870 to 0.934 , and its distance from the Earth increases from 131 to 144 million miles. Mars is too close to the Sun for observation. Jupiter is an evening star, setting at 23h. 25m., 22h. 35m. and 21h. 40m. on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively. It is near the border of Sagittarius and Capricornus; its stellar magnitude is -2.0 on October 15 and its distance from the Earth

is 450 million miles. Saturn is an evening star, setting at 23h. 05m., 22h. 10m. and 21h. 10m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It is in Sagittarius; its stellar magnitude is $+0.7$ on October 15 and its distance from the Earth is 920 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Oct. 20d. 21h. 55.5m., χ Aqr. (*D*); Oct. 27d. 2h. 40.1m., 318B. Tau. (*R*). There is also an occultation of Venus: Oct. 7d. 6h. 31.0m., (*D*); Oct. 7d. 7h. 56.1m., (*R*). *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively. The Orionid meteors are active during October 15–25, maximum activity being on October 20. The radiant is at R.A. 6h. 24m., Dec. $+15^\circ$, and conditions for observation are moderately favourable.

Announcements

DR. G. G. MACFARLANE, at present deputy director of the National Physical Laboratory (see *Nature*, 184, 1844; 1959), has been appointed director of the Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern, in succession to Mr. W. J. Richards.

As from August 30, the address of the headquarters of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research became State House, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Telephone: Chancery 1262.

A CONFERENCE of professors of mathematics from the universities of Great Britain is being convened by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom at the end of September to consider the teaching of mathematics. The proceedings will be private.

THE Royal Entomological Society of London is organizing a symposium on "Insect Polymorphism", to be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, during September 21–22. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar, Royal Entomological Society of London, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

THE second summer research institute of the Australian Mathematical Society will be held at the Australian National University, Canberra, during January 3–February 1, 1962. Analysis and number theory will be the main fields of research, and Prof. A. Erdelyi (California) will be the guest lecturer. Further information can be obtained from the director of the Institute, Prof. E. S. Barnes, Department of Mathematics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Optical Character Recognition" will be held during January 15–17, 1962. It will be jointly sponsored by the Information Systems Branch of the Office of Naval Research Information Centre of the National Bureau of Standards, and will be held in the Department of the Interior Auditorium on C Street, between 18th and 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Further information can be obtained from Miss Josephine Leno, Code 430A, Office of Naval Research, Washington 25, D.C.

ERRATUM. The article entitled "Reactions of Salt Solutions in Calcium Chloride on Mortar and Concrete", appearing on p. 125 of the July 8 issue of *Nature*, refers to two original articles appearing in the *Australian Journal of Applied Science* (11, No. 4, December 1960).