

### Christmas Lectures for Schoolboys in Chemical Engineering

THE Institute of Chemical Engineers has organized two Christmas lectures for schoolboys which will be held at the Lecture Theatre of the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, on the afternoon of January 11. Mr. E. S. Sellars, head of the Petroleum Division of the B.P. Research Centre at Sunbury, and a vice-president of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, will speak on "Stages in the Development of the Industrial Process", and Prof. M. W. Thring, professor of fuel technology and chemical engineering in the University of Sheffield, will speak on "Some Possible Future Developments in Industry". Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, 16 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

### The Australian Mathematical Society

THE Australian Mathematical Society met in Sydney, at the University of Sydney, during August 15-17; eighty members attended. The new Council elected was as follows: *President*, Prof. E. S. Barnes; *Vice-presidents*, Profs. T. G. Room and A. L. Blakers; *Publications Secretary*, Dr. G. E. Wall; *Treasurer*, Prof. C. S. Davis; *General Secretary*, Prof. H. O. Lancaster; *Councillors for the second term*, Prof. A. Brown, Prof. R. C. T. Smith and Dr. G. Szokeres; *Councillors for the first term*, Prof. L. S. Coddard, Dr. C. F. Moppert and Prof. K. C. Westfold. A summer research institute was held at the Australian National University, Canberra, during January and February, 1962, with Prof. E. S. Barnes as director. A third meeting of the institute will be held in Canberra during January 1963, with Prof. B. H. Neumann as director. The seventh general meeting of the Society will be held at Monash University during May 21-23, 1963. Further information concerning the general meeting can be obtained from the local secretary, G. C. Smith, Department of Mathematics, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria.

### The Welsh Soils Discussion Group

THE following have been elected officers for the fifth session, 1962-63, of the Welsh Soils Discussion Group: *Chairman*, Dr. R. Williams, regional advisory chemist, National Agricultural Advisory Service, Trawscoed, Cardiganshire; *Secretary*, J. A. Taylor, lecturer in geography, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; *Assistant Secretary*, Dr. C. B. Cramp-ton, soil surveyor, National Agricultural Advisory Service, Cardiff; *Editor*, D. F. Ball, Nature Conservancy, Bangor. J. R. Hampson, Forestry Commission, North Wales Conservancy, Shrewsbury, was elected an ordinary member. The theme for the fifth session will be "Soil Moisture". A meeting of the Group will be held at Bangor on February 27, when the subject will be "The Biological Role of Soil Water". Further information can be obtained from Mr. J. A. Taylor.

### The Night Sky in January

FULL moon occurs on Jan. 9d. 23h. 09m. U.T. and new moon on Jan. 25d. 13h. 42m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Jan. 12d. 15h., Mars 2° N.; Jan. 21d. 18h., Venus 0.1° S.; Jan. 28d. 07h., Jupiter 3° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Antares on Jan. 15d. 09h., Venus being 9° N. There will be a penumbral eclipse of the Moon on January 9,

visible at Greenwich; Moon enters penumbra on Jan. 9d. 21h. 04m., mid-eclipse is at 23h. 19m. and Moon leaves penumbra at Jan. 10d. 01h. 34m. There will be an annular eclipse of the Sun on January 25, invisible at Greenwich. Mercury is an evening star visible during the first part of the month low in the south-west after sunset. Venus is a morning star, rising at 4h. 15m., 4h. 25m. and 4h. 45m. on Jan. 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is -4.2; its distance increases during the month from 47 to 69 million miles, and the visible portion of the apparent disk increases from 0.365 to 0.545. Mars rises at 19h. 40m., 18h. 30m. and 16h. 55m. on Jan. 1, 15 and 31, respectively. It is at a distance of 66 million miles on January 15, when its stellar magnitude is -0.7; conditions are now favourable for observation. Mars is in Leo, not far from Regulus. Jupiter is an evening star, setting at 21h. 15m., 20h. 35m. and 19h. 50m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month. It is in Aquarius, its stellar magnitude is -1.7 and its distance from the Earth in the middle of the month is 520 million miles. Saturn is too close to the Sun for easy observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Jan. 4d. 19h. 04.5m.,  $\xi^2$  Cet. (D); Jan. 6d. 20h. 30.7m., 63 Tau. (D). D refers to disappearance. The Quadrantid meteors are active on January 3, the radiant being near R.A. 15h. 28m., Dec. +50°. The Earth is at perihelion on January 4, its distance from the Sun being 91.4 million miles.

### Announcements

MR. H. FAULKNER, director of the Telecommunication Engineering and Manufacturing Association, retires at the end of the year. He was formerly deputy engineer-in-chief of the British Post Office and has held office in the Association for nine years. Mr. Faulkner will be succeeded by Mr. R. A. Moir, until recently a director of Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd.

THE British Biophysical Society is organizing a meeting on "Nucleic Acids and Nucleoproteins" at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, during April 2-4. The titles of the symposia will be "Structure and Physicochemical Properties" and "Effects of Radiation". Further information can be obtained from the local secretary, Dr. G. Scholes, Chemistry Department, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne 1.

THE centenary meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference will be held in London during September 2-6, 1963. The closing date for the receipt of papers to be delivered at the meeting is May 1. The Conference Lecture is to be given by Dr. J. M. Barnes, head of the Toxicology Research Unit of the Medical Research Council. Further information can be obtained from the honorary local secretary, Dr. K. R. Capper, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

THE British Ecological Society, which was founded in 1913, will celebrate its fiftieth jubilee with a special meeting, to be held at Queen Elizabeth College, Campden Hill Road, London, W.8, during March 8-31. The meeting will include half-day sessions on various topics, ranging from "The History of Ecology in Britain" and "Quaternary Ecology" to "Production Ecology" and "Conservation and Ecology". Further information can be obtained from P. J. Newbould, Botany Department, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.