

Volatile Fruit Flavours

THE report of a symposium held in Berne during 1962, one of a series organized by the Scientific and Technical Commission of the International Federation of Fruit Juice Producers, summarizes the great advances made in the chemistry and technology of fruit aromas since the advent of gas-liquid chromatography (*Volatile Fruit Flavours*, Pp. 449. Zurich: Juris-Verlag, 1962. Obtainable from International Fruit Juice Union, Eschenz TG, Switzerland. 40 Sw. Fr.). The papers presented, reviews or original papers, are in English, French or German with tri-lingual summaries. Of the 38 articles, 28 deal with the chemistry of aroma components or with their commercial recovery from fruits and juices. The developments so far have already led to significant improvements in the quality of juice products; the more detailed examination of aroma components is now beginning to make possible a more quantitative assessment of quality, though sensory tests still remain the final criteria.

Investigations of Infra-red Spectra

DR. R. N. JONES, president of the Coblenz Society, has written to the Editor saying that, with the permission of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Coblenz Society has arranged for the re-publication of the Carnegie Institution Monograph No. 35, *Investigations of Infrared Spectra*. In this is published the original research work of Dr. W. W. Coblenz, who first established the potentialities of infra-red spectroscopy as a tool in organic chemical research, and who died in Washington last September at the age of eighty-eight. The Monograph, which was originally published in 1905, has long been out of print; it is believed that it will be of interest to many molecular spectroscopists outside the immediate circle of the Society members. A limited number of copies are still available at a price of 3.5 dollars, and can be obtained from Dr. H. B. Kessler, secretary of the Coblenz Society, the Perkin-Elmer Corporation, Norwalk, Connecticut.

The Coblenz Society was formed in 1954 with the view of bringing together physicists and chemists concerned with the development and application of infra-red spectroscopy and has its headquarters in the United States.

The Sun during the International Geophysical Year

DR. M. A. ELLISON, senior professor in the School of Cosmic Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and editor of Volumes 21 and 22 of the *Annals of the International Geophysical Year (I.G.Y. Solar Activity Maps, DI and DII)*, which were reviewed on p. 1237 of the September 29, 1962, issue of *Nature*, has written to the Editor of *Nature* as follows: "In the review . . . there was no mention of the greatly reduced price available to individuals who certify that the *Maps* are for their own personal use (£18 as against £54 to Institutions). . . . Such orders must be addressed to IGY Solar Maps, Pergamon Press, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, England".

Course in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Techniques

A SPECIAL advanced course on "Nuclear Magnetic Resonance in Molecules of Moderate and High Molecular Weight" will be held during April 25-26. The speakers include Prof. A. R. Katritzky, and Drs. R. Froeman, D. W. Jones, J. A. S. Smith and I. M. Ward. Applications in inorganic, organic and polymer chemistry will be considered, and there will be a short session on commercial equipment. The fee for the course is 30s. Further details and registration forms can be obtained from the Registrar, Institute of Technology, Bradford 7.

The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 9d. 00h. 57m. U.T. and new moon on April 23d. 20h. 29m. The following conjunctions

with the Moon take place: April 3d. 05h.. Mars 2° N.; April 18d. 23h.. Saturn 1° N.; April 21d. 09h., Venus 3° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Venus is in conjunction with Jupiter on April 28d. 17h.. Venus being 0.6° S. Mercury is an evening star, and is conveniently placed for observation during the last week of the month, when it sets about two hours after the Sun. Venus is a morning star, rising about an hour before the Sun. Mars sets at 4h. 10m., 3h. 20m. and 2h. 30m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively. It is at a distance of 101 million miles on April 15, when its stellar magnitude is +0.5 and it is in Cancer. Jupiter and Saturn are too close to the Sun for easy observation. There are no occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 visible at Greenwich. The Lyrid meteors are active during April 19-22, the radiant being at R.A. 18h. 04m.. Dec. +33°; conditions for observation are favourable.

Announcements

PROF. BERND T. MATTHIAS, professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded the twenty-seventh Research Corporation Award for his outstanding contributions in the fields of superconductivity and ferroelectricity. The Award includes an honorarium of 10,000 dollars.

AN international starch conference will be held in Detmold during April 24-26. Further information can be obtained from Wolfgang Kempf, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Getreideforschung E.V., Detmold, Am Schützenberg 9.

THE 1963 Central African Scientific and Medical Congress will be held at the College of Further Education, Church Road, Lusaka, during August 26-30. Further information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, P.O. Box 844, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.

THE third European Mycological Congress will be held in Glasgow during August 31-September 7. The programme will include a symposium on "Gasteromycetes". Further information can be obtained from the Local Secretary, Third European Mycological Congress, Botany Department, the University, Glasgow, Scotland.

THE British Institution of Radio Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers are organizing a joint symposium on "Automatic Control", which will be held at the University of Birmingham on March 28. Further information can be obtained from Mr. G. K. Steel, Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Advanced Technology, Gosta Green, Birmingham 4.

THE Third International Meeting in Forensic Immunology, Medicine, Pathology and Toxicology will be held in London during April 16-24. Among the subjects to be discussed will be the problems in relation to: aviation; odontology; horse doping; stains by human tissues; drug addiction; psychiatry; industrial toxicology; clinical toxicology; plant and animal poisons; poisoning by therapeutic substances; questioned documents. Further information can be obtained from the Secretariat, Third International Meeting in Forensic Immunology, Medicine, Pathology and Toxicology, 28 Portland Place, London, W.1.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Aspects of Chemical Change during the Processing and Storage of Foods", arranged by the Nutrition Society (Scottish Group), will be held in the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, on April 20. The programme will include: foodstuffs as unstable chemical systems; catalytic destruction of vitamin A and carotene; chemical change in fish muscle during storage; flavour changes in potatoes; the environment for chemical change in dried and frozen foods. Further information can be obtained from Dr. D. G. Armstrong, Department of Agricultural Biochemistry, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne 1.