

it unnecessary words, and adopt internationally acceptable terms and definitions. The Clearing House will also encourage proper scientific bodies to prepare medical dictionaries and will do everything possible to facilitate their publication and dissemination. It will collect information from all over the world on all activities regarding medical terminology and make it available on request to those interested. It will deal only with the five languages most commonly used in medicine at the international level, which were agreed to be English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. Further information can be obtained from Prof. M. Florin, Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, 6 rue Franklin, Paris 16.

### New Chromophoric Reagents for Labelling the Thiol Groups of Proteins

S. F. CHANG (Research Division, Parke-Davis and Co., Ann Arbor, Michigan) and Prof. I. E. Liener (Department of Biochemistry, University of Minnesota) have written to the Editor as follows: "We would like to correct our recent communication which described two new chromophoric reagents for labelling the thiol groups of proteins (*Nature*, 203, 1065; 1964). In preparing 4-phenylazo-2-chloromercuriphenol (compound I) it was stated that 1.14 g of *O*-chloromercuriphenol was dissolved in 30 ml. of 15 per cent potassium hydroxide prior to coupling with diazotized aniline. This should be corrected to read: '1.14 g of *O*-chloromercuriphenol was dissolved in a minimum amount of 15 per cent potassium hydroxide at room temperature and diluted to 30 ml. with distilled water'. The remainder of the procedure is unchanged. Although compound II (4-(*p*-nitrophenylazo)-2-chloromercuriphenol) may also be obtained by this procedure, the following alternative method is recommended: Dissolve 1.0 g of *O*-chloromercuriphenol in 100 ml. of 70 per cent ethanol, filter, and add 15 g of sodium acetate to the filtrate. Cool to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To a solution of 0.42 g of *p*-nitroaniline, 4 g of cracked ice, and 12 ml. of concentrated HCl was added dropwise 0.21 g of sodium nitrite dissolved in 3 ml. of distilled water. The diazonium salt solution was cooled to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and added dropwise to the solution of *O*-chloromercuriphenol. After the mixture had been stirred for 1.5 h in an ice bath, and diluted to 400 ml. with cold distilled water, the orange-yellow precipitate was collected by filtration and dried over  $\text{CaCl}_2$  *in vacuo* overnight. This compound could be further purified by recrystallization from hot ethyl acetate or by passage through a column of acid-washed alumina

(Merck) with ethyl acetate as the solvent. A red-coloured impurity was retained on the column, whereas the orange-yellow band corresponding to compound II could be eluted with the same solvent. The analysis of compound II is the same as that previously reported."

### Announcements

SIR NIGEL POETT has been appointed director of the British Productivity Council on the retirement of Sir Charles Norris.

THE third international Biomagnetic Symposium will be held in the University of Illinois during March 22-23. Further information can be obtained from Prof. M. F. Barnothy, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois, 833 South Wood Street, Chicago, Illinois.

THE eighteenth technical exhibition of the Oil and Colour Chemists' Association will be held at Alexandra Palace, London, during March 14-18. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Oil and Colour Chemists' Association, Wax Chandlers' Hall, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2.

A CONFERENCE on "Exploiting Instrument Development", arranged by the British Scientific Instrument Research Association, will be held in Eastbourne during March 22-23. Further information can be obtained from Miss A. E. S. Mills, Scientific Instrument Research Association, South Hill, Chislehurst, Kent.

A CONFERENCE, convened by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, on "The Effects of Automation and Technical Change on Labour" will be held in Zurich during February 1-4. Further information can be obtained from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Château de la Muette, 2 rue André-Pascal, Paris 16.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Planning Mechanical Engineering Departments in Universities", arranged by the Education and Training Group of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in association with the Royal Institute of British Architects, will be held at the Institution during March 15-16. Further information can be obtained from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London, S.W.1.

A DISCUSSION meeting of the Royal Society on "The Structure and Function of Lysozyme" will be held at the Royal Institution on February 3. An ordinary meeting of the Society will follow the discussion. Further information can be obtained from the Executive Secretary, the Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.

## THE NIGHT SKY IN FEBRUARY

All times are in Universal Time

MOON		CONJUNCTIONS WITH THE MOON	
New Moon	20d 11h	Venus	17d 12h, 12° N.
Full Moon	5d 16h	Mars	21d 16h, 4° N.
		Jupiter	2d 00h, 2° S.
		Saturn	21d 17h, 3° N.

### PLANETS

Times of rising (*R*) and setting (*S*) during the month

Name	<i>R/S</i>	Beginning	Middle	End	Mag.	$D_9$ (10 <sup>6</sup> miles)	Zodiacal position
Mercury	<i>S</i>	Unfavourable		19h 20m	-1.2	123	-
Venus	<i>R</i>	6h 35m	5h 20m	4h 45m	-4.1	30	-
Mars	<i>S</i>	18h 30m	18h 40m	18h 50m	+1.5	214	-
Jupiter	<i>S</i>	4h 55m	4h 00m	3h 00m	-2.0	431	Taurus
Saturn	<i>S</i>	19h 55m	19h 05m	18h 20m	+1.3	980	Aquarius

$D_9$  is the distance of planet from the Earth on the 15th of the month

### OCCULTATIONS OF STARS BRIGHTER THAN MAGNITUDE +6 AT GREENWICH

Star	<i>R/D</i>	Time	Mag.
247 B. Tau	<i>D</i>	1d 01h 14.5m	+5.7
57 Gem	<i>D</i>	3d 18h 19.7m	+5.1
× Gem	<i>D</i>	4d 03h 49.2m	+3.7

(*D*, disappearance; *R*, reappearance)

### OTHER PHENOMENA

22d 13h Mars 1.1° N. of Saturn.  
23d 16h Mercury 1.7° N. of Saturn.  
24d 13h Mercury 0.7° N. of Mars.

Saturn and Mars become too close to the Sun during the month for favourable observation.