

is one-fifth of a second of arc. The average standard deviation of positions for the present epoch obtained by using the proper motions given in the catalogue amounts to half a second of arc.

### Mössbauer Spectroscopy

THE U.S. National Bureau of Standards is now issuing a reference standard intended as a standard absorber in Mössbauer spectroscopy. The standard consists of a single crystal of sodium nitroprusside. This material has been selected on account of its chemical stability, very low temperature coefficient, the narrowness of the X-ray lines, and because of its doublet line structure. The standard is intended to be used in comparison with measurements with other materials, and may be purchased for 150 dollars.

### University and College News:

#### Battersea College of Technology

DR. K. HOSELITZ has been appointed to the first visiting professorship of the College, while remaining deputy director of Mullard Research Laboratories. Dr. Hoselitz will be associated with the work of the Solid State Physics Group which recently received a grant of £25,000 from the Science Research Council for work on the structure and chemical properties of crystalline polymers. This appointment is one of the very few so far in Britain to have been designed to bring industrial scientists more fully into academic work. Dr. M. B. Waldron, group leader in physical metallurgy at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has been appointed to the chair in and headship of the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Technology as from September 1.

#### Cambridge

PROF. W. R. HAWTHORNE, Hopkinson and I.C.I. professor of applied thermodynamics at the University of Cambridge, has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development of the British Army, as from April 1. He succeeds Sir Charles Dodds, president of the Royal College of Physicians, who has been chairman for the past five years.

#### Lancaster

THE University has announced the appointment of Dr. K. D. Tocher as its first industry-based part-time professor. Dr. Tocher, head of the Department of Operational Research, The United Steel Companies, Ltd., Sheffield, will work in the Department of Mathematics. The University regards this appointment as the beginning of the establishment of a liaison between the University and industrial scientists.

#### London

THE following appointments have been made: Dr. C. C. Booth, senior lecturer in medicine at the Postgraduate Medical School of London, to the chair of medicine, tenable at that School; Prof. D. T. Donovan, professor of geology in the University of Hull, to the Yates-Goldsmid chair of geology, tenable at University College.

### Appointments

MR. R. G. VOYSEY has been appointed director of the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington, D.C., and counsellor (scientific) at the British Embassy in Washington. He replaces Dr. J. A. Saxton, who is returning to the United Kingdom after holding this post since January 1964.

DR. J. A. SIMMONS has been appointed head of the Metal Physics Section at the National Bureau of Standards.

DR. D. W. MATHIESON, reader in pharmaceutical chemistry in the University of London, has been appointed professor of pharmaceutical chemistry as from September 1.

### Announcements

A CONFERENCE on "Calculation of the Properties of Vacancies and Interstitials" will be held in Washington during May 1-5. Further information can be obtained from A. D. Franklin, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.

THE eighteenth international symposium on "Crop Protection" will be held in Ghent on May 3. Further information can be obtained from Prof. J. Van den Brande, Rijksfaculteit der Landbouwwetenschappen, Coupure Links 235, Ghent.

A MEETING of the Society for Analytical Chemistry, devoted to short papers on "Research Topics in Analytical Chemistry", will be held in the University of Bristol on May 4. Further information can be obtained from the Society for Analytical Chemistry, 14 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

AN international seminar on "Research and Education in Chemical Engineering and Physical Chemistry" will be held in the Technical University of Karlsruhe during May 2-July 15. Further information can be obtained from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Place de Fontenoy, Paris 7.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Graphite", organized by the Electrothermics and Metallurgy Division and the Industrial Electrolytic Division of the Electrochemical Society, Inc., will be held in Cleveland as part of the Spring meeting of the Society during May 1-5. Further information can be obtained from S. W. Bradstreet, Air Force Materials Laboratory, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

THE annual general meeting of the Polarographic Society will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on April 27. The programme will include a lecture on "Polarographic Characteristics of Organic Compounds in Organic Solvents", by Dr. M. E. Peover. Further information can be obtained from Mrs. B. Lamb, 42 Blenheim Gardens, Wembley, Middlesex.

DR. W. J. ECKERT, director of the Watson Laboratory of the International Business Machines Corporation at Columbia University and professor of celestial mechanics in the University, has been awarded the James Craig Watson Medal of the National Academy of Sciences for his contribution to the scientific application of electronic computers and to the theory of the motion of the Moon.

ERRATUM. In the article entitled "Finding Metarchons for Pest Control" by R. H. Wright, which appeared on p. 103 of the July 3, 1965, issue of *Nature*, lines 16 and 17 of the fourth paragraph should read, "likewise completely ineffective in preventing the fruit-flies from congregating".

CORRIGENDUM. In the article entitled "Typography of Bacteria", which appeared on p. 332 of the October 23, 1965, issue of *Nature*, in section 13 (c), the word 'kauffmannii' should read 'kauffmannii', and in section 13 (d), the example should read 'Salmonella kauffmannii [serotype] London'.

CORRIGENDUM. In the article entitled "Is the Early Evolution of Life Related to the Development of the Earth's Core?" by Prof. C. Sagan, which appeared on p. 448 of the May 1, 1965, issue of *Nature*, in lines 13 and 14 of paragraph 4, '125 km' should be '260 km' and '30 km' should be '200 km'. In line 8 of paragraph 7, '2 x 18<sup>8</sup>' should be '2 x 10<sup>8</sup>'.