

of the Fourth International Seminar, c/o Waters Associates, Inc., 61 Fountain Street, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701.

A CONFERENCE on "Frequency Generation and Control for Radio Systems" will be held at the Institution of Electrical Engineers during May 22-24. The aim of the conference is to review the developments in techniques of frequency generation, synthesis, control and distribution as applied to radio communications, navigation and radar systems. Further information can be obtained from the Conference Section, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2.

An international congress on "Sulphur Oxides" will be held in the University of Toulouse during May 22-26. Further information can be obtained from the Secrétariat du Congrès, Association des Ingénieurs du Génie Chimique, Institut du Génie Chimique, Chemin de la Loge-Empalot, 31-Toulouse.

**CORRIGENDUM.** In the article entitled "Activity of Ribosomal Phosphodiesterase in a Protozoan", by L. H. Lazarus and O. H. Scherbaum (*Nature*, 213, 887; 1967), the following should be added to the end of the last sentence of para. 5: ", either as magnesium and/or calcium ions.". Lines 10 and 11 of para. 6 should read: "... This ribosome-bound enzyme with its high pH for optimum activity is ...". In line 3 of the legend to Table 1 "magnesium chlorate" should read "magnesium chloride". The fifth line of the legend to Table 2 should be "... tryptophan plus potassium chloride relative to potassium chloride alone.". In the first column in Table 2 the word "Plus" should be deleted from entries 5-8. The last two entries in this column should then be moved under entry 8.

**ERRATUM.** In the article entitled "Preliminary Observation on the Lipids of Bovine Retinal Outer Segment Disks" by S. Fleischer and D. G. McConnell (*Nature*, 212,

1366; 1966), the second line of the third paragraph should read "resolved into six fractions. . . .".

**ERRATUM.** In the article "Reduction of Methaemoglobin in Haemoglobin Samples using Gel Filtration for Continuous Removal of Reaction Products" by H. B. F. Dixon and R. McIntosh (*Nature*, 213, 399; 1967), second paragraph, line 5, "12 mg sodium dithionite" was incorrectly given as "12 ml. . . .".

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Asbestos in the Lungs

SIR,—The first paragraph of this review (*Nature*, 213, 855; 1967) states that mesotheliomas of the pleura and peritoneum only occur in association with exposure to crocidolite asbestos dust. This statement is not in accordance with our present knowledge. These tumours have occurred in people in whom no evidence of exposure to asbestos dust was established. Furthermore, crocidolite is not necessarily the only type of asbestos implicated. Investigations in the United States<sup>1,2</sup> have indicated that other types of asbestos may be involved. The international investigations which are described later in your article are planned to measure the absolute and relative risk of tumour development with all types of fibres.

Yours, etc.,

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<sup>1</sup> Sellikoff, Irving J., Churg, Jacob, and Hammond, E. Cuyler, *New Eng. J. Med.*, 272, 560 (1965).

<sup>2</sup> O'Donnell, Ward M., Mann, Richard H., and Grosh, John L., *Cancer*, 19, 1143 (1966).

## THE NIGHT SKY IN APRIL

All times are in Universal Time

MOON		CONJUNCTIONS WITH THE MOON	
New Moon	9d 22h	Venus	13d 06h, 0.8° S.
Full Moon	24d 12h	Mars	23d 17h, 0.4° N.
		Jupiter	17d 16h, 5° S.
		Saturn	8d 15h, 0.8° N.

### PLANETS

Name	Times of rising (R) and setting (S) during the month				Mag.	$D_p$ (10 <sup>6</sup> miles)	Zodiacal position
	R/S	Beginning	Middle	End			
Mercury	—	Unfavourable for observation		—	102	Pisces	
Venus	S	21h 45m	22h 30m	23h 20m	-3.5	Taurus	
Mars	R/S	20h 00m (R)	18h 40m (R)	4h 10m (S)	-1.3	Virgo	
Jupiter	S	3h 20m	2h 25m	1h 30m	-1.7	Gemini	
Saturn	—	Unfavourable for observation		—	970	Cetus	

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

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

Star	R/D	Time	Mag.
47 Gem	D	17d 00h 13.3m	+5.6
ω Cnc	D	17d 19h 45.3m	+5.9

(D disappearance; R reappearance)

### METEORS

Name	Active period	Date of maximum	Radiant	Remarks
Lyrids	19d-23d	22d	271° R.A. +33° Dec.	Unfavourable

### OTHER PHENOMENA

8d 15h, Saturn occulted by the Moon, visible in S. America.  
13d 08h, Venus occulted by the Moon, visible in N.E. Europe and Asia.  
23d 17h, Mars occulted by the Moon, visible in Central and East Africa, S. Australia.  
24d 12h, Total eclipse of the Moon, Moon enters umbra 10h 25m, visible in the Americas, Asia, Australasia.

Total eclipse begins	11h 28m
Mid eclipse	12h 07m
Total eclipse ends	12h 46m
Moon leaves umbra	13h 49m