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#### American Geographical Society Awards

ACCORDING to *Science*, the American Geographical Society has made the following awards: Cullum Geographical Medal for 1938 to Emmanuel de Martonne, professor of geography at the University of Paris; Charles P. Daly Medal for 1939 to Prof. H. J. Fleure, professor of geography in the University of Manchester; David Livingstone Centenary Medal for 1939 to John R. Rymill, in recognition of his scientific achievement and exploration in the southern hemisphere. The following have been made honorary members of the Society: Sir Wilfred Grenfell, for his contributions to geographical knowledge concerning the Labrador Peninsula; Prof. H. Baulig, professor of geography in the University of Strasbourg, and Prof. G. Dainelli, professor of geology and physical geography in the University of Florence. The following have been made corresponding members of the Society: E. Antevs, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; Prof. L. L. Mecking, professor of geography at the University of Münster; W. E. Rudolph, a civil engineer who has carried out extensive explorations in South America; P. G. Schott, retired section chief of the Deutsche Seewarte and honorary professor in the University of Hamburg, and Dr. L. Dudley Stamp, reader in economic geography in the University of London and director of the Land Utilization Survey of Great Britain.

#### The Night Sky in August

THE moon is new on August 15 at 3·9h. U.T. and full on August 29 at 22·1h. On August 25,  $\rho$  Sagittarii (magnitude 4·0) is occulted, the disappearance as seen from Greenwich taking place at 23h. 48·9m. at position angle 77° from the north point of the moon's disk. Conjunctions between moon and planets occur as follows: August 5d. 14h. with Jupiter; 7d. 9h. with Saturn; 26d. 14h. with Mars. On August 25 at 20h. Venus is in conjunction with Regulus, the geocentric distance between the planet and the star being 0·9°. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn rise in the evening, the respective times of southing on August 1 being 23h. 23m., 3h. 55m., and 5h. 20m.; by August 25 these times have changed to 21h. 35m., 2h. 17m. and 3h. 46m. Mars, a conspicuous object low in the evening sky, declines in brightness during the month from mag. -2·5 to -1·8; Jupiter increases slightly from mag. -2·3 to -2·4. Mercury reaches its greatest western elongation (18°) on August 28 and should be looked for in the early morning at about this date. Venus continues as a morning star rising in the dawn at 3h. 26m. on August 1 and at 4h. 38m. on August 25. Saturn reaches a stationary point on August 14, Mercury on August 20, Mars on August 24 and Uranus on August 28. The minor planet Juno is in opposition on August 19, when its magnitude is 8·3; on August 1 it is about 50' south of  $\alpha$  Aquarii. The Perseids reach their maximum frequency on or about August 9, their radiant point being near

$\eta$  Persei. In the late evenings of mid-August, with the moon absent, the region of the Milky Way near the southern meridian offers interesting 'sweeps' with binoculars or telescope.

#### Announcements

PROF. S. TIMOSHENKO, professor of mechanics at Stanford University, California, has been elected *correspondant* for the Section of Mechanics of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

MR. R. H. WHITBY, City and Guilds College, London, has been awarded the Busk studentship in aeronautics for the year 1939-40 tenable at the Aeronautics Department, Engineering Laboratory, Cambridge.

THE following awards for 1939-40 have been made by the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry and approved by the Court of the Salters' Company. Fellowships have been renewed in the case of Messrs. A. Cameron (University of Cambridge), H. S. Corran (University of Cambridge) and J. L. Tuck (University of Oxford). Fellowships have been awarded to R. Scarisbrick (University of Cambridge), T. W. Walker (University of London) and J. A. Berriman (University of Cambridge). The Salters' Institute has also awarded forty-four grants-in-aid to young men employed in chemical works in or near London to assist them in their studies.

PROF. OTTO GROSSERN, director of the Anatomical Institute of the German University of Prague, has been awarded the Silver Medal of 1939 by the Jena Society of Medicine and Natural Sciences.

PROF. ESMOND R. LONG, director of the Henry Phipps Institute and professor of pathology in the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected president of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology. Dr. Edmond J. Farris, associate in anatomy in charge of operations at the Wistar Institute, is to be executive director.

THE twelfth International Congress of the History of Medicine will be held in Berlin on September 22-28, 1940, when the chief subjects for discussion will be the evolution of medicine in different countries from Harvey to Haller (epoch of medical philosophers) introduced by Dr. Laignel-Lavastine, professor of the history of medicine in the Paris faculty, and the history of typhus, introduced by Prof. Zeiss, director of the Institute of Hygiene of the University of Berlin.

AN account of the chemical composition of 'Volpar' contraceptive products recently published (*Eugenics Rev.*, 31, No. 1) gives many details about the nature and action of these substances. They are in the form of gels and pastes and are weakly alkaline, containing phenyl mercuric acetate in aqueous solution. The gels contain also glyceryl monoricinoleate together with a fungicide to prevent the action of bacteria and moulds. The paste contains a basis of arrowroot starch and can be used in the tropics. Numerous tests of their efficiency and other effects have been made on animals.