

Electrical Engineers. Cables must be rubber- or paper-insulated and must be run in heavy-gauge solid-drawn galvanized-welded screw conduit (preferably) or in heavy-gauge welded screw conduit. Alternatively, 'Pyrotenax' may be employed. Attention is directed to a modification of an electric soldering iron for heating sealing compound, which enables joints to be made on the spot instead of entailing removals to a bench for heating with a blow lamp, in order to avoid risk of fire where timber is adjacent.

Cables of the supply undertaking should be taken into the building for as short a distance as possible and run only on brick or stone walls. Distribution boxes and fuses must be in cast iron cases. Instrument panels should be well clear of walls and should be of slate or other non-inflammable material; if of wood, only teak may be used. The wiring of ancient brass candelabra is condemned, as it would be almost impossible to remove the detachable brasses for cleaning. Electroliers or fittings must be hung on chains and their weight must not be borne by electric cables or flexible cords. All reachable metal work is to be earthed. Any relay or other circuit carried to a switch at an organ keyboard for starting a blower must be run in screwed conduit or be of 'Pyrotenax'; the starting switch must be in a metal case mechanically and electrically continuous with the circuit and with the approved earth connexion.

#### American Philosophical Society Publications

THE American Philosophical Society has issued a list of books and papers in the Society's publications from 1769 until 1940 classified according to subject. This covers the papers, monographs, treatises and books, classified according to subject, and includes a subject index as well as a classified list, an author index and a price list. The *Transactions* of the Society is the oldest scientific journal with a continuous history in the United States, commencing in 1769; the six volumes issued in small quarto format up to 1809 are known as the "old series" and are out of print except for a few numbers. A new series was started in the present large quarto format in 1818, and to date thirty-one volumes have been issued.

The *Proceedings*, commenced in 1938, contain the original papers read before the Society as well as others accepted for publication. In view of the interest and value of some of the early material to the research student and historian, certain abstracts of papers read before the Society, verbal communications, letters on scientific and learned subjects, etc., included in the early *Proceedings* have been reproduced in the list. The *Memoirs*, commenced in 1935, consist of monographs and books each constituting a separate volume of the series, of which fifteen volumes have now been issued. In addition to its serial publications, the American Philosophical Society has published or sponsored for publication a number of separate works which are listed under "Miscellaneous Publications". Its library also maintains a photo-duplication service for supplying

35-mm. microfilm copies of out-of-print articles and manuscript material. Printed books are copied at the rate of 3 cents per standard frame, usually 2 pages per exposure. Manuscript is copied at the rate of 4 cents, usually 1 page, per exposure.

#### The Night Sky in May

THE duration of night (sunset to sunrise) decreases from 9.3 hours on May 1 to 7.7 hours on June 1 in the latitude of London. Full moon is on May 11 and new moon on May 26. No bright star is occulted by the moon during the month. There is a general absence of bright planets in the night sky of this month. Jupiter and Saturn are now too near the sun for observation. Towards the end of May, however, conditions are favourable for seeing Mercury in the low western sky after sunset. In mid-May, Mars is nearly 5° above the eastern horizon soon after 3h. 30m. U.T., but sunrise is shortly after 4h. (add 2 hours to convert to new Summer Time). About this date the following constellations are near the southern meridian at dusk: Ursa Major, Canes Venatici, Coma Berenices, Bootes, Leo, Virgo, Crater, Corvus and Hydra. Pleasing in its symmetry is the formation of seven stars of medium brightness in Corona Borealis. A nova appearing near  $\epsilon$  Coronæ Borealis in 1866 added to the lustre of this 'crown'.

#### University of Birmingham: Air Raid Damage

IN a recent air raid, many bombs fell in the grounds of the University of Birmingham, and the chemistry buildings were hit. Fortunately, very little damage was done.

#### Civil List Pensions

A LIST of the pensions granted during the year ended March 31, 1941, and payable under the Civil List Act, 1937, has recently been issued. Among them are the following: *New Pensions*: Mrs. Mary Browne (services of her husband, the late Dr. Charles Browne, to anthropology), £100; Dr. C. C. Hurst (discoveries in science of genetics and their application to agriculture, horticulture and sociology), £130; Sir Alfred Matthews (services to agriculture), £150; *Supplementary Pensions*: Mrs. Jessie Bennett (services of her husband, the late Mr. Arthur Bennett, to botanical science: additional to £60), £40; Miss Fanny Bryant (services of her father, the late Mr. Thomas Bryant, to surgery: additional to £30), £70; Mrs. Barbara Kaye (services of her husband, the late Mr. Walter J. Kaye, to archæology: additional to £60), £40; Mrs. Johanna Miller (services of her husband, the late Dr. N. H. J. Miller, to agricultural science: additional to £50), £50; Miss Eleanor S. Sowerby (botanical works of her father, the late Mr. J. E. Sowerby: additional to £50), £50; Mrs. Elsie V. Sullivan (services of her husband, the late Mr. J. W. N. Sullivan, to literature: additional to £75), £25; Miss Helen S. Tichborne (scientific discoveries of her father, the late Prof. Tichborne, in chemistry and pharmacology: additional to £60), £40; Mrs. Ada E. Scott (services of her husband, the late Mr. Andrew Scott, to zoological science: additional to £80), £30.