

an exceptionally distinguished student at King's College, London; and after a period on the staff of the Geography Department there, he became a lecturer in geography under Prof. A. G. Ogilvie at the University of Edinburgh. His published researches into the relations between land forms and river drainage brought him (jointly with his collaborator, Prof. S. W. Wooldridge) the Murchison Grant of the Royal Geographical Society; and besides other work on geomorphology he has published studies in historical, general and economic geography. His teaching experience is also wide. Before the War he was secretary to the Geography Section of the British Association, and on the Council of the Institute of British Geographers and that of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. His service with the R.A.F.V.R., in which he won successive promotion to squadron-leader, has been in photographic intelligence, in which he is in charge of a H.Q. Department.

### Fellowships for Scientific Research in India

I.C.I. (India) have offered to the National Institute of Sciences of India the sum of 336,000 rupees (about £25,000) for research fellowships in chemistry, physics and biology, to be held at Indian universities or institutions approved by the Council of the National Institute of Sciences, over a period of five to seven years. Each fellowship will be worth 400 rupees per month and will be tenable in the first instance for two years. There is provision for four new fellowships every year during the period 1945-49. In addition, there will be a grant for research expenses to be made to the fellowship holders according to their needs of special apparatus and materials. For this purpose the National Institute has at its disposal an average of 600 rupees per annum for each fellowship. There will be a grant of 13,200 rupees per annum to the National Institute for five years to enable it to pay for administration and the travelling expenses of such fellows of the Institute as may be selected to visit the fellowship holders at their universities or institutions. Appointment to, and control of, the fellowships will be in the hands of the Council of the National Institute, acting on the advice of a special research fellowships committee, representative of various scientific fields and drawn from various parts of India, so as to include any community, the overriding consideration for membership being scientific fitness therefor. The fellowships will be open to persons, irrespective of sex, race or religion, resident or domiciled in India (British India or the States) and less than thirty-five years of age, and will be tenable at any university or institution in India approved by the Council of the National Institute. Fellows will be permitted to do a limited amount of approved teaching or demonstrating.

The aim of the fellowships is to strengthen research in Indian universities and institutions, and it is hoped that the National Institute of Sciences will spread the research fellowships over them in accordance with this aim, but with the overriding consideration of the scientific suitability of the particular university or institution. As Lord McGowan points out in his letter conveying the offer to the president of the National Institute, these fellowships should do something to encourage the advance of science in India and with it the general prosperity of the country; further, they should assist the National Institute in maintaining its position as the premier scientific body of India. The offer is in many ways parallel with that made to British universities a short time ago by

Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and, it may be presumed, is inspired by the suggestions made by Prof. A. V. Hill in his recent report on research in India (see *Nature*, May 5, p. 532).

### Education in H.M. Forces

AN encouraging feature in the latest report of the Central Advisory Council for Education in H.M. Forces (October 1944-March 1945) is the considerable increase in the number of organized classes as opposed to single lectures conducted in Service units (see *Nature*, 155, 611; 1945). The latter have decreased by some 19 per cent, while the former show the significant rise of 37 per cent. Outside units, the number of intensive schools and conferences also shows a remarkable increase, and it is particularly gratifying that a growing proportion of these schools and conferences are being conducted on a residential basis. It is distressing, therefore, to find that while there is every indication that the demand for intensive courses will increase, there is little likelihood of the demand being met in full unless residential accommodation is made much more freely available. Four university institutions have already lent hostels for whole-time use for regional committee courses, but more help is urgently needed from Service authorities towards the initial cost of reconditioning buildings and also in facilitating the release of suitable premises.

Although the number of occasional lectures in science shows the same downward trend as single lectures in other subjects, the rapid increase in the number of science classes in units is a useful indication of the way in which Service men and women are pursuing their studies with more serious intent; it is noteworthy that there has been a big shift from 'non-vocational' to 'vocational' science. Several background courses in science, lasting a week or a fortnight, have also been held, usually at university centres. One regional committee broke new ground by instituting experimental courses on British industries. The object was to provide unit instructors with background information about the actual structure of some of Britain's major industries and then to discuss some of the problems that the industries would have to face in the future. Lectures were given by specialists on various aspects of the industries considered, while visual and other mechanical aids were used to supplement the teaching and discussion. Visits to works and firms also served to provide the necessary balance between detailed knowledge and general understanding of the broad issues affecting each industry. Other useful work carried out by the Central Advisory Council during the half-year covered by the report was that for soldiers and auxiliaries in hospitals and convalescent homes.

### Argentine-British Medical Centre, Buenos Aires

AN Argentine-British Medical Centre has been established in Buenos Aires, with the assistance of the British Council, to promote closer relations and to facilitate the exchange of information between the British and Argentine medical professions. The Centre has a Committee of Honour, the twenty-two Argentinian members of which include Prof. José Arce, Prof. Pedro Escudero, Prof. B. A. Houssay and Prof. Alfredo Sordelli. British representatives of various branches of medicine have been invited to join this Committee. On the Executive Committee are the president of the Centre (Prof. Dr. Mariano R.

Castex), the director (Prof. Dr. Antonio Eqües), the secretary (Dr. R. Castro O'Connor), an assistant secretary, three ordinary members, and two representatives of the British Hospital in Buenos Aires. The Centre's library contains a selection of the most important British medical journals and up-to-date text-books. When an inquiry cannot be answered on the spot, the Centre obtains, through the British Council, information, articles and books (or photostat copies) from Britain. Among the activities are distribution of the "British Medical Bulletin" (Spanish edition), supply of medical films, translations from English into Spanish and Spanish into English, and certain facilities for members wishing to subscribe to British medical journals, or buy British medical books. The facilities are available to medical men in the interior of Argentina, who, since they are not in a position to borrow original books and articles, are supplied with photostat copies.

### University of London Appointments

THE following appointments have been made in the University of London: Dr. D. H. Hey, since 1941 director of research at the British Schering Research Institute, to the University chair of chemistry tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology; Dr. F. C. Benham, to the University chair of commerce tenable at the London School of Economics; since 1931 he has been Sir Ernest Cassel reader in commerce at the School. Mr. D. W. Harding, special lecturer in psychology in the University of Manchester, to the University chair of psychology tenable at Bedford College.

Mr. Raymond Irwin, county librarian of Lancashire, has been appointed to the directorship of the School of Librarianship at University College as from October 1.

The title of reader in bacteriology in the University has been conferred on Mr. J. C. Cruickshank, in respect of the post now held by him at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The degree of D.Sc. as an internal student has been conferred on the following: Mr. C. R. Bailey (University College); Mr. R. V. Harris (Imperial College of Science and Technology); Mr. G. W. Padwick (Imperial College of Science and Technology); Mr. L. Young (University College and Imperial College of Science and Technology).

### The Night Sky in August

NEW moon occurs on August 8d. 00h. 32m. U.T., and full moon on August 23h. 12h. 03m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: August 2d. 23h., Mars 2° N.; August 4d. 16h., Venus 1° S.; August 5d. 23h., Saturn 1° S.; August 9d. 07h., Mercury 9° N.; August 11d. 06h., Jupiter 4° S.; August 31d. 13h., Mars 0.9° N. In addition to the conjunctions with the moon, Venus is in conjunction with Saturn on August 22d. 04h., Venus being 0.7° S. Only one occultation of stars brighter than magnitude 6 takes place in August;  $\xi$  Tauri is occulted on August 4d. 3h. 28.9m. Mercury sets at 20h. 18m. at the beginning of the month—half an hour after sunset—and is not well placed for observation. The planet is stationary on August 5 and 29 and is in inferior conjunction on August 20. Venus is conspicuous in the eastern sky, rising at 1h. 11m., 1h. 22m. and 1h. 50m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. Mars, in the con-

stellation of Taurus, rises at 23h. 47m., 23h. 20m., and 22h. 54m., at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. Jupiter sets about 1½ hours after the sun at the beginning of August and less than three-quarters of an hour after the sun at the end of the month, and is not well placed for observation. Saturn can be seen in the early morning hours, rising at 2h. 37m. and Ch. 56m. at the beginning and end of the month. The Perseid meteors reach their maximum about August 10–12; the radiant is at R.A. 3h., dec. 45° N., close to  $\alpha$  Persei.

### Announcements

PROF. H. M. TURNBULL, director of the Pathological Institute of the London Hospital and professor of morbid anatomy in the University of London, has been given the honorary degree of D.Sc. of the University of Oxford.

PROF. A. C. HARDY, regius professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen and honorary director of oceanographical investigations in the University College of Hull, has been appointed Linacre professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in the University of Oxford, in succession to Prof. E. S. Goodrich.

DR. IRENE MANTON, lecturer in botany in the University of Manchester, has been appointed professor of botany in the University of Leeds, in succession to the late Prof. J. H. Priestley.

MR. A. B. HORNBLLOWER, honorary general secretary of the London Natural History Society, has resigned the position he has held for the past sixteen years, owing to ill-health. Mr. H. A. Toombs of the Geological Department, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W.7, has been appointed to take his place; particulars of the Society's activities can be obtained from him.

THE Minister of Town and Country Planning, Mr. W. S. Morrison, has appointed the following National Parks Committee: Sir Arthur Hobhouse (*chairman*), Lieut.-Colonel E. N. Buxton, Mr. John Dower, Mr. Leonard K. Elmhirst, Mr. R. B. Graham, Dr. Julian Huxley, Mrs. Lindsey Huxley and Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis.

THE following have been elected officers of the Institution of Electrical Engineers for the year beginning on September 30: *President*: Dr. P. Dunsheath; *Honorary Treasurer*: Mr. E. S. Byng; *New Members of Council*: Mr. L. H. A. Carr, Mr. J. G. Craven, Mr. J. Eccles, Mr. H. Faulkner, and Prof. Willis Jackson (members); Dr. J. M. Meek (associate member); Mr. A. F. Plummer (associate).

THE report of the proceedings of the nineteenth conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, December 9 and 10, 1944, has now been published by the Association, price 6s. The report includes the papers presented at the Conference together with summaries of the discussions, the presidential address of Sir Frederic Kenyon, a report of the year's work of the Association, 1943–44, reports on the work of the British Council and on the Inter-allied Book Centre evolved by the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education, with brief notes on the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals and on the National Central Library.