

Africa, southern United States, China, northern India and the Middle East. Each map represents the sky at the same time of the night with intervals of two months, or, what amounts to the same thing, the sky on the same day with intervals of four hours. Full explanations are given for using these charts which, though constructed for latitude 30° N., can be used also with sufficient accuracy for latitudes varying between 20° N. and 40° N. The local mean time of Cairo is used throughout, but the necessary correction for any other longitude can be easily made.

There is much useful information on other matters, such as a table of the constellations in which the planets appear, a list of the brightest stars, hints for identifying the stars, etc. One error should be corrected in the next edition. On p. 44 it is stated that the equation of time is the amount to be added to apparent solar time to give mean solar time, and the equation of time is given for the various months. The wrong signs are given in all cases and the equation of time, as given in the *Nautical Almanac* since 1931, is apparent time minus mean time. The method of reckoning the equation of time as given in the "Star Atlas" is that in use prior to 1931.

British Bryological Society

A MEETING of the British Bryological Society was held at Appleby, Westmorland, during April 10–17, under the presidency of Mr. W. R. Sherrin. Thirty-two members attended. Excursions were made to Cross Fell, High Cup Nick, Sunbiggin Tarn and other places in the neighbourhood. Among the most interesting bryophytes seen was the moss *Schistostega pennata*, which has not previously been found in Westmorland. During the meeting it was decided to enlarge and improve the Society's annual report and to embark on a scheme of co-operative observations on the season of production of sexual organs and sporogonia in various common bryophytes. It is hoped later to extend the scheme to other aspects of the biology of bryophytes.

Bee-keeping

BULLETIN No. 9, entitled "Bee-keeping" (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 9d. net), issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has been entirely rewritten; the present issue is therefore a new publication that takes the place of its predecessor. Dr. C. G. Butler, apicultural expert on the staff of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been responsible for this booklet. It is intended as a short introduction to bee-keeping and is specially adapted for beginners, who will find a great deal of useful information compressed within its twenty-seven pages. It does not, however, take into account bee diseases and some other aspects of bee-keeping, which are being dealt with elsewhere.

Atomes: A French Popular Journal of Science

THE re-awakening of scientific studies in France—or rather their emergence from the 'underground' where they were maintained with much difficulty and hazard during the German occupation—has been marked by the reappearance of well-known scientific journals. To these must now be added *Atomes*, an illustrated review published on the first of each month from 37 rue Caumartin, Paris IX^e (30 francs; 300 francs a year). The purpose of the new journal as set out in an editorial note in the first issue (March) is to

present to readers authoritative surveys of new scientific and industrial developments throughout the world. Most of the articles, it is hoped, will be written by distinguished French or foreign scientific workers, thus ensuring the accuracy so necessary for a journal of an educational character. The editor also intends that the journal shall be well illustrated. The first issue has articles by Prof. F. Joliot-Curie, Sir Robert Watson-Watt, Prof. S. Vavilov, Sir Howard Florey, with notes on current research and reviews of scientific books, and does not disdain to include some humour. Certainly, the promise of authoritative articles is well redeemed. The second issue includes among its contributors L. de Broglie, Prof. L. Binet and the head of the French television service. There are notes in both issues of French men of science who fell victims to the Germans. *Atomes* has made a good beginning; it is well illustrated and has an attractive coloured cover. The definition offered of a 'good article'—that it is one which informs the most learned and is understood by the layman—should lead to the best type of popularization. The new journal should play a very useful part in educating French readers in the developments and responsibilities of a scientific age.

Assistant Agricultural Attaché in Washington

MR. P. J. MACFARLAN, deputy executive officer of the Northamptonshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, has been appointed assistant to the Agricultural Attaché to the British Embassy, Washington. Mr. Macfarlan was educated at Edinburgh Academy and the University of Glasgow. He continued his agricultural studies at the West of Scotland Agricultural College and the Dairy School for Scotland and was, in 1937, awarded a Ministry of Agriculture postgraduate scholarship. He became vice-principal of the Chadaere Agricultural Institute in 1938, which post he held until the Institute was closed in 1940. Since then, he has been with the Northants War Agricultural Executive Committee, being appointed deputy executive officer in 1942.

Announcements

PROF. J. B. S. HALDANE, Weldon professor of biometry in the University of London, has been awarded the degree of doctor of science *honoris causa* by the University of Groningen. The degree will be presented at the opening ceremony of the new university year on September 16.

WE are asked to state that Höber's "Physical Chemistry of Cells and Tissues", reviewed in *Nature* of February 2, p. 116, is published in the British Empire by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., 104 Gloucester Place, W.1.

OUR attention has been directed to a communication in *Current Science* (July 1940, p. 333) on the existence of an epiphysis in the pisiform bone of the young Old World langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) by Prof. A. A. Ayer, of the Department of Anatomy, Andhra Medical College, Vizagapatam. Prof. Ayer describes the insertion of the flexor carpi ulnaris tendon into the epiphysis of the pisiform, and compares this with the insertion of the gastrocnemius into the epiphysis of the os calcis. This observation is of particular interest as it antedates the recent correspondence by Harris, Hughes, Haines and Eckstein in *Nature* (153, 715; 154, 182; 1944).