

Bannister, professional assistant, Royal Observatory, Hong Kong; G. J. Lockley, fishery officer, Tanganyika; H. E. C. Lushington, senior assistant conservator of forests, Ceylon, to be conservator of forests, Ceylon; E. W. March, assistant conservator of forests, Ceylon, to be conservator of forests, Jamaica; L. G. T. Wigg, assistant conservator of forests, Tanganyika, to be senior assistant conservator of forests, Tanganyika.

Recent Comets

COMET RONDANINA-BESTER (1947*b*) was discovered by Rondanina and independently by Bester at Bloemfontein on March 24. Its magnitude at the time of discovery was 11, and its daily motion was rather rapid, suggesting that it was fairly close to the earth. Dr. L. E. Cunningham computed an orbit and a short ephemeris which has been continued by Dr. G. Merton; these are given below.

T	1947, May 20-913 U.T.
ω	305° 41'
Ω	353 13
i	39 22
q	0.5599

		EPHEMERIS		r	ρ	Mag.
		Dec.				
1947	0h R.A.					
May 3	2h 21.1m	-27° 22'				
7	18.9	22 02	0.643	0.728	9.5	
11	17.7	16 55				
15	17.7	12 06	0.576	0.861	9.4	
19	19.1	7 00				
23	21.9	2 28	0.562	1.001	9.6	
27	26.0	+ 2 05				
31	31.4	6 26	0.605	1.137	10.2	

Comet Bečvář (1947*c*) was discovered on March 27 by Dr. Bečvář, Observatory Skalnaté Pleso. He described it as diffuse, without central condensation or nucleus, and its magnitude was 9. Dr. Cunningham has computed an orbit and ephemeris for this comet also, the ephemeris having been extended by Dr. Merton.

T	1947, May 3-971 U.T.
ω	182° 25'
Ω	322 35
i	128 58
q	0.9609

		EPHEMERIS		r	ρ	Mag.
		Dec.				
1947	0h R.A.					
May 3	6h 0.9m	+22° 52'				
7	1.6	19 40	0.962	1.362	10.5	
11	2.1	16 53				
15	2.4	14 28	0.980	1.550	10.9	
19	2.6	12 18				
23	2.8	+10 21	1.017	1.719	11.3	

The Night Sky in May

FULL moon occurs on May 5d. 04h. 53m. U.T., and new moon on May 20d. 13h. 44m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: May 6d. 00h., Jupiter 0.4° N.; May 18d. 09h., Mars 2° N.; May 18d. 10h., Venus 1° N.; May 24d. 23h., Saturn 4° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Venus is in conjunction with Mars on May 17d. 12h., Venus being 1.0° S. Mercury is in superior conjunction on May 15. Towards the end of the month, the planet sets 1½ hours after the sun and can be seen as an evening star. Venus rises about half an hour before the sun on May 1 and 50 min. before sunrise on May 31, and can be seen in the eastern sky, stellar magnitude -3.3. Mars can be observed as a morning star for a short period before sunrise, rising at 4h., 3h. 21m., and 2h. 41m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. Jupiter, in the constellation Libra, is visible until the early morning hours, setting after sunrise during the first half of May. Saturn, in the constellation Cancer, can be seen only during the early part of the night, setting at 1h. 36m., 0h. 43m., and 23h. 43m.,

at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Only one occultation of stars brighter than magnitude 6 takes place in the month, on May 23d. 22h. 10.5m., α Gemi. (D). The latitude of Greenwich is assumed, and D refers to disappearance. A total eclipse of the sun on May 20 is visible over portions of South America and central Africa, and preparations have been made to observe it (see *Nature*, March 1, p. 287); the British expedition has been cancelled following the deaths of two of the party in an aeroplane crash.

Announcements

THE Lord President of the Council has approved the appointment of Dr. Franklin Kidd, superintendent of the Low Temperature Research Station, as director of food investigation, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in succession to Dr. C. S. Hanes, who has become head of a unit of biochemistry that is being set up at the University of Cambridge by the Agricultural Research Council. Dr. E. C. Bate-Smith, senior principal scientific officer at the Low Temperature Research Station, has been appointed superintendent of the Station.

DR. GEOFFREY GEE has been appointed director of research of the British Rubber Producers' Research Association in succession to Mr. J. Wilson.

DR. H. CULLUMBINE has been appointed professor of physiology in the University of Ceylon, which came into existence in 1942 by the incorporation of the Ceylon University College (founded in 1921) and the Ceylon Medical College (founded in 1870). During the War, Dr. Cullumbine was engaged in research in the Physiology Department of the Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton, and since then he has worked in the Department of Pharmacology, University of Manchester.

THE fourth Mercer Lecture of the Society of Dyers and Colourists will be delivered on May 2 at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, by Mr. E. J. Bowen, of University College, Oxford, who will speak on "Colour and Constitution: Absorption of Light by Chemical Compounds".

THE annual malaria control courses for planters, miners and others are to be resumed at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This year the course will be held at the School during June 23-27. The course is free. Applications to attend should be sent as early as possible to the Organising Secretary, Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, Keppel Street, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

THE Trustees of the Ramsay Memorial Fellowships for chemical research will consider at the end of June applications for one fellowship of value £300 per annum, tenable for two years. Particulars can be obtained from the joint honorary secretaries, Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trust, University College, London (Gower Street), W.C.1, to whom applications must be forwarded not later than May 31.

THE suggested summer school in X-ray crystallography at Manchester (see *Nature*, March 22, p. 398) will be held during September 1-12. Applications to attend must be received not later than May 12.

ERRATUM. In *Nature* of March 22, p. 387, review of "The Milky Way": the longest axis of the Galaxy is more than 100 thousand light-years, not 100 million light-years as printed.