

University of Cambridge; Miss A. L. Winner, medical officer, Ministry of Health. The secretary of the Committee is Mr. L. M. Feery, General Register Office, Somerset House, London, W.C.2.

Seventh Pacific Science Congress: Royal Society Delegates

THE Royal Society has appointed a delegation of six of its Fellows to attend the Seventh Pacific Science Congress to be held at Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand, during February 2-22. The programme of the Congress will provide for contributions and discussions on scientific topics of special significance to the Pacific area, and of importance for the welfare of Pacific peoples. Problems depending for their solution on co-operative studies by two or more sciences will be presented for discussion in symposia. Public lectures will be given, and local excursions will be made to places of scientific interest near Auckland and Christchurch. The delegates are: Dr. G. E. R. Deacon, of the "Discovery" Committee, Colonial Office, and the Royal Naval Scientific Service (also representing the Admiralty); Sir Norman Haworth, professor of chemistry and director of the Department of Chemistry in the University of Birmingham since 1925 until retiring last October; Prof. H. D. Kay, research professor of biochemistry, University of Reading, and director, National Institute for Research in Dairying, University of Reading; Prof. G. W. Robinson, professor of agricultural chemistry, University College of North Wales, Bangor; Sir Geoffrey Taylor, Yarrow research professor of the Royal Society; Prof. C. M. Yonge, regius professor of zoology, University of Glasgow. At the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, Canberra, Sir Norman Haworth and Sir Geoffrey Taylor will spend some time in Australia visiting university laboratories before they return to Great Britain.

University Grants Committee

THE term of office of a number of members of the University Grants Committee is about to expire and the committee has been reconstituted with the following membership: Sir Walter Moberly (chairman), Dr. A. E. Trueman (deputy chairman), Prof. E. D. Adrian, Sir Charles Darwin, Miss D. Dymond, Mr. H. L. Elvin, Mr. E. James, Mr. H. S. Magnay, Prof. W. R. Niblett, Prof. P. S. Noble, Prof. D. Hughes Parry, Prof. G. W. Pickering, Prof. E. K. Rideal, Prof. H. G. Sanders, Prof. J. C. Spence, Sir Alexander Murray Stephen, Mr. B. H. Sumner and Miss Barbara Wootton.

University of Leeds

THE following appointments have been made in the University of Leeds: Dr. R. D. Preston (senior lecturer in botany), as reader in plant biophysics; Dr. R. Brown (senior lecturer in plant biochemistry), as reader in plant physiology; Dr. T. D. Day, as senior research fellow in experimental pathology and cancer research; Mr. G. C. Easty, as Brotherton research fellow in physical chemistry in the Department of Colour Chemistry.

The University has recently received the following gifts, among others: two research scholarships, each of the value of £325 a year, plus an allowance of £50 for apparatus, from the Coal Tar Research Association; from Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., £200 towards the cost of equipping a laboratory in the Colour Chemistry and Dyeing Department, £200 for

research in the Department of Biomolecular Structure, and explosives and detonators for the Mining Department; an electric gyroscope presented to the Mathematics Department by the Sperry Gyroscope Co., Ltd.

The Night Sky in January

FULL moon occurs on Jan. 14d. 21h. 59m., U.T., and new moon on Jan. 29d. 02h. 42m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Jan. 17d. 15h., Saturn 3° S.; Jan. 27d. 06h., Jupiter 5° N.; Jan. 27d. 08h., Venus 5° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions with planets occur: Jan. 7d. 18h., Mercury in conjunction with Mars, Mercury 0.8° S.; Jan. 26d. 08h., Venus in conjunction with Jupiter, Venus 0.02° S.; Jan. 27d. 21h., Mercury in conjunction with Mars, Mercury 3.6° N. Mercury attains its greatest easterly elongation on Jan. 18 and sets at 16h. 40m., 17h. 52m. and 17h. 23m. on Jan. 1, 15, and 31 respectively, and can be seen for a short time as an evening star. Venus rises at 6h. 15m., 6h. 42m. and 6h. 57m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively, and can be seen shortly before sunrise as a morning star. Mars sets more than an hour after the sun, but is still too close to the sun for favourable observation. Jupiter is in conjunction with the sun on Jan. 1 and rises an hour before sunrise at the end of the month, but is still too close to the sun to be favourably observed. Saturn rises at 20h. 56m., 20h. and 18h. 50m. on Jan. 1, 15 and 31 respectively, stellar magnitude 0.8-0.5, and can be observed throughout the night in the constellation of Leo. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follow: Jan. 10d. 22h. 54.2m., 133 B. Taur. (D); Jan. 11d. 02h. 17.3m., 32 Taur. (D); Jan. 12d. 17h. 40.7m., 112 B. Auri. (D); D refers to disappearance and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. The earth reaches perihelion on Jan. 3d., when its distance from the sun is about 91,450,000 miles.

Announcements

PROF. P. DANGEARD, of the University of Bordeaux, and M. Louis Emberger have been elected *correspondants* for the Section of Botany of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in succession to the late MM. Emile de Wildeman and Ernest Pinoy.

MR. ROBERT BARER, of the Department of Human Anatomy, Oxford, has been appointed Alan Johnston, Lawrence and Moseley Research Fellow of the Royal Society for two years from January 1, 1949, renewable for a further three years. He will continue his work at Oxford on the biological and medical applications of new methods of microscopy, with special reference to the Burch reflecting microscope.

DR. MAGNUS PYKE, who since the spring of 1946 has been principal scientific officer responsible for nutrition in the Ministry of Food, has been appointed to the research staff of the Distillers Company, Ltd., as deputy manager of the Company's new Yeast Research Outstation at Glenochil, Clackmannanshire.

MR. H. G. FOSTER, lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Birmingham, has been appointed editor of *Electronic Engineering*, in succession to Mr. G. Parr, who has become technical director of Messrs. Chapman and Hall, Ltd., publishers.