

Low-Temperature Physics: Conference in Oxford and London

THE second conference on low-temperature physics of the Unesco Commission for Very Low Temperatures will be held in Oxford during August 22-28 and in London during August 29-31. On August 21 the Royal Society Mond Laboratory, Cambridge, will be open to members of the conference. The meeting in Oxford will be devoted to pure physics only—liquid helium, superconductivity, magnetic phenomena and thermal properties. The meeting in London will form part of the conference of the Institut International du Froid and will consist of sessions on liquefiers and temperature scales, followed on August 31 by a general survey of the Oxford meeting. The conference of the Institute will be continuing until September 5 and is designed for those who are interested in the technical and industrial aspects of low temperatures. Intending speakers at the Unesco Commission conference should send in a short abstract of 150-200 words, preferably in June, and not later than August 1, and those who wish to attend the conference should intimate their desire as soon as possible. All inquiries should be addressed to the Organizing Committee of the Low Temperature Conference, Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford.

Colonial Service: Recent Appointments

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have recently been announced: W. H. Hale (administrative officer, Kenya), game warden, Kenya; B. G. Kinloch (administrative officer, Kenya), assistant game warden, Uganda; E. G. A. Benson (agricultural officer, Trinidad), rice officer, Trinidad; A. P. McWilliam (agricultural officer, Sierra Leone), agricultural officer, Nyasaland; J. R. P. Angus (assistant conservator of forests, Kenya), conservator of forests, Fiji; R. L. Brooks (chief conservator of forests, Gold Coast), secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and National Resources, Gold Coast; G. W. Chapman (senior assistant conservator of forests, Cyprus), conservator of forests, Cyprus; R. W. J. Keay (assistant conservator of forests, Nigeria), forest botanist, Forestry Department, Nigeria; D. S. P. Noakes (senior assistant conservator of forests, Federation of Malaya), conservator of forests, Federation of Malaya; D. R. Rosevear (deputy chief conservator of forests, Nigeria), chief conservator of forests, Nigeria; D. Stevenson (deputy chief conservator of forests, Gold Coast), chief conservator of forests, Gold Coast; A. V. Thomas (research officer, Forestry Department, Federation of Malaya), chief research officer, Forestry Department, Federation of Malaya; J. R. Antoine, assistant plant pathologist, Mauritius; D. M. Grieve, agricultural officer, Nigeria; M. Dinning, assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; D. R. Gifford, assistant conservator of forests, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland; R. W. Fishwick and J. F. Pollard, assistant conservators of forests, Nigeria; C. R. Newing and W. Ferguson, veterinary officers, Nigeria; K. D. Guyadeen, agricultural superintendent, British Guiana; E. R. Haslop and R. F. Scott, agricultural survey officers (cocoa), Gold Coast; A. F. Rae, scientific assistant, Tsetse Control, Gold Coast; J. Ricketts, agricultural superintendent, Nigeria.

Letter from James Smetham to William Davies

PROF. F. J. COLE wishes to trace the MS. of a letter dated October 7, 1863, addressed by James

Smetham, the painter, to William Davies, F.G.S. (1814-91), a member of the geology staff of the British Museum (Natural History), who retired in 1887. This letter was printed in the "Letters of James Smetham", published in 1892, on pp. 143-45. If it is still available, Prof. Cole would be grateful for any information as to its whereabouts. Communications should be addressed to Prof. F. J. Cole, F.R.S., Littledown, Kingwood, Henley-on-Thames.

The Night Sky in February

New moon occurs on Feb. 6d. 07h. 54m., U.T., and full moon on Feb. 21d. 21h. 12m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Feb. 4d. 15h., Mercury 4° N.; Feb. 7d. 22h., Venus 0.6° S.; Feb. 8d. 05h., Jupiter 0.5° S.; Feb. 8d. 06h., Mars 0.4° S.; Feb. 24d. 03h., Saturn 4° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mars is in conjunction with Jupiter on Feb. 7d. 19h., Mars 0.2° N.; and Venus is in conjunction with Jupiter on Feb. 11d. 15h., Venus 0.4° S., and is also in conjunction with Mars on Feb. 16d. 04h., Venus 0.6° S. Mercury is a morning star, rising an hour before the sun on February 1, but as it gradually draws closer to the sun it is unfavourably placed for observation throughout most of the month. Venus, an evening star, sets more than two hours after the sun throughout most of the month, having stellar magnitude -3.3 , and the visible portion of the illuminated disk varying from 0.95 to 0.90. Mars sets about two hours after the sun during the month; in the latitude of Greenwich the conjunction of the planet with Jupiter on February 7 takes place after their setting, but they can be seen close together previous to this. Saturn rises at 21h. 20m., 20h. 30m. and 19h. 30m., on Feb. 1, 14 and 28, respectively, and is visible throughout the night, close to η Virginis in the earlier part of the month and about midway between η and β Virginis towards the end of the month. Only one occultation of stars brighter than magnitude 6 occurs in February, namely, γ Canc. disappearing on Feb. 19d. 19h. 42.4m.

Announcements

THE Royal Scottish Geographical Society has announced the award of the following medals: Livingstone Medal to Prof. Alan G. Ogilvie, of the University of Edinburgh, first professor of geography in Scotland, for outstanding services to that science; Mungo Park Medal to Thor Heyerdahl, for courage and enterprise in navigating the Kon Tiki Raft from South America to Polynesia.

MR. W. C. F. HESSENBERG, head of the Mechanical Working Division of the British Iron and Steel Research Association, has been appointed in addition to be deputy director of the Association.

APPLICATIONS are invited for Lady Tata Memorial Fund grants and scholarships to scientific workers of any nationality for research in diseases of the blood, with special reference to leukæmia, in the year beginning October 1, 1951. Grants are made for research expenses, and scholarships are awarded as personal remuneration, their normal value being £400 a year. Applications must be submitted before March 31, and the awards will be announced in June. Further particulars and forms of application may be obtained from the Secretary of the Scientific Advisory Committee, c/o Medical Research Council, 38 Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.