

logical Laboratory, Plymouth); Dr. R.-H. Côté, the chemical constitution of human blood group substances of the A, B and O Lewis systems (Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, London); Dr. E. I. B. Dresel, the biosynthesis of porphyrin pigments (University College Hospital Medical School, London); Dr. J. M. Lowenstein, the biosynthesis of pyrimidines in mammals (Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford); Dr. R. Whittam, the metabolism of adenine nucleotides in relation to the active transport of inorganic ions (Physiological Laboratory, University of Cambridge).

#### Bowen Prizes for Papers on Scientific Instrumentation

THE Institute of Physics has awarded Bowen Prizes to the following for papers published in the *Journal of Scientific Instruments* during 1954: Dr. K. P. Norris, of the Wheatstone Physics Laboratory, King's College, London (a reflecting microscope for infra-red absorption measurements); G. Revesz, of the British Rayon Research Association, Manchester (an autocorrelogram computer); and J. H. Welch, of the Building Research Station, Watford (a simple microscope attachment for observing high-temperature phenomena). The first award is worth 20 guineas, and the other two 15 guineas each, the money being provided by the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain, Ltd., from the Bowen Trust Fund established by the late Mr. William Bowen. The Prizes are open to authors who are not more than thirty-five years of age.

#### Nuclear Physics: Summer Course at Lake Como

THE third of the annual courses arranged by the Italian Physical Society at the Ente Villa Monastero, Varenna, Lake Como, will be held this year during July 17–August 6 and will be on nuclear physics. The course, which will be under the direction of Prof. C. Salveti (University of Milan), will be in English and French, and lectures will be given by the following: Prof. A. Bohr (University of Copenhagen); Prof. S. de Benedetti (Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh); Prof. G. Placzek (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton); Prof. I. I. Rabi (Columbia University, New York); and Dr. A. M. Weinberg (research director at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory). The number of students is limited to thirty, and the fee for the course is 25,000 lire (or 20,000 lire for shared accommodation). Application must be made before June 10 to Prof. C. Salveti, Società Italiana di Fisica, Via Saldini 50, Milano.

#### The Night Sky in June

FULL moon occurs on June 5d. 14h. 08m., U.T., and new moon on June 20d. 04h. 12m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: June 3d. 09h., Saturn 6° N.; June 18d. 19h., Venus 3° S.; June 21d. 11h., Mars 3° N.; June 22d. 12h., Jupiter 4° N.; June 30d. 12h., Saturn 6° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Venus is in conjunction with Aldebaran on June 21d. 11h., Venus 4.6° N., and Mercury is in conjunction with Venus on June 30d. 08h., Mercury 3.8° S. Mercury sets at 21h. 35m. on June 1, but is too close to the sun for favourable observation during most of the month and is in inferior conjunction on June 16. Venus rises at 3h., 2h. 45m. and 2h. 40m. on June 1, 15 and 30, respectively, its stellar magnitude remaining –3.3

throughout the month; although the visible portion of its illuminated disk increases from 0.906 to 0.954, the stellar magnitude does not vary owing to the planet increasing its distance from the earth by 11 million miles. Mars sets at 22h., 21h. 40m. and 21h. 15m. on June 1, 15 and 30, respectively, but towards the middle of the month it is too close to the sun for favourable observation. Jupiter sets at 23h. 20m., 22h. 30m. and 21h. 40m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; at the end of the month it sets less than an hour and a half after sunset and cannot be observed for long. Saturn sets in the early morning hours at 3h. 05m., 2h. 15m. and 1h. 10m. on June 1, 15 and 30, respectively, and has a retrograde motion in the constellation Libra. No occultations of stars take place in June which are visible at Greenwich. Summer solstice occurs on June 22d. 05h.

On June 20 a total eclipse of the sun takes place, which is invisible in the British Isles. The path of totality crosses the Indian Ocean, Ceylon, Thailand and the Philippines, and is total at Colombo, where it begins on June 20d. 01h. 37m. and ends at 3h. 59m., the total eclipse lasting from 2h. 40.7m. to 2h. 44.9m. The period of totality near the Philippines is about 7m. 08s., which is close to the maximum duration that is possible; it is the longest time of totality that has occurred or will occur in this century.

#### Announcements

PROF. W. H. BUCHER, professor of structural geology in Columbia University, New York, has been awarded the William Bowie Medal of the American Geophysical Union (the Committee on Geophysics of the National Research Council) for his work in the field of structural geology and mountain building. Prof. Bucher is the seventeenth recipient of the Medal, which was first awarded in 1939 to the late William Bowie, the geodesist and geophysicist, in whose honour the Medal is named.

DR. E. W. RUSSELL, reader in soil science, Department of Agriculture, University of Oxford, has been appointed director of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization, in succession to Sir Bernard Keen, who has retired (see *Nature*, January 29, p. 194).

THE following appointments have been made in the University of Leeds: Dr. E. R. Clark, lecturer in pharmacological chemistry in the Department of Pharmacology; Dr. P. G. Harris, lecturer in geology; and Mr. F. Summers, senior research worker in the Department of Social Studies for two years under the terms of a grant from the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organization.

MR. M. W. PARTRIDGE, at present lecturer in pharmaceutical chemistry in the University of Nottingham, has been elected to the Lord Trent readership in pharmaceutical chemistry in the University.

THE symposium on the tanning industry of eastern India and on tanning agents, which was to have been held this year at the Central Leather Research Institute, Adyar, Madras 20, during February 8–9, had to be postponed and will now be held during July 6–8. In the discussion on tanning agents the field will cover vegetable, synthetic, mineral, oil and aldehyde tanning agents. Advance copies of papers must be sent in by June 16. Further information can be obtained from the Director of the Institute.