

and University Libraries, which is attempting to standardize practice and remove some of the restrictions on the freer use of theses. It was agreed that all applications for this material should be made through the City Libraries in future. It was reported that the use made of the deposit collections of British, Canadian and American atomic energy reports in the Sheffield City Science and Commerce Library is increasing. These may be borrowed by any research worker or organization in the United Kingdom, and many have been lent in this way; but an increased number have been asked for by firms in the South Yorkshire industrial area served by the City Science and Commerce Library.

Photometric Studies of a Lunar Eclipse

A PAPER in *Publications de L'Observatoire de Genève* (Sér. A, Fasc. 51; 1955) on "Observation of the Total Eclipse of the Moon on January 18-19, 1954", by M. Golay, deals with the results, obtained at the Observatory of Geneva, of the lunar eclipse of January 1954. The observations were carried out with the Schaefer refractor, 20 cm. aperture, and were specially directed to a photometric study around 5750 Å. This region was selected because Barbier and his collaborators had suggested many years ago that the region 5750-6000 Å. should be specially studied, and four photographs were taken in the band 5600-6100 Å., each with an exposure of 4 min. From the results a few deductions are made, some of which will be published later. It seems that certain rays may have travelled through a considerable depth of ozone; in addition, certain discontinuities referred to are in accordance with Danjon's law on solar cycles, and it is very probable that 1954 will prove to be the minimum of solar activity.

Welsh Folk Museum, St. Fagans: New Handbook

SUCH is the speed of development of the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagans that a new edition of the handbook is welcome (pp. 29. Cardiff: National Museum of Wales, 1955; 1s.). The attractive format is similar to that in previous issues, though visitors and others will appreciate descriptions of the recently re-erected Stryt Lydan barn, the Esgair Moel woollen factory, the Abernodwydd and Kennixton farmhouses. It is interesting to note that three other buildings, including a Unitarian chapel dated 1777, have been accepted for re-erection. A part of the much-needed Museum block is now under construction.

Washing of Treated Bronzes

In the August issue of the *Museums Journal*, Mr. R. M. Organ, of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum, discusses the difficulties encountered in washing treated bronzes. These are shown to be due to the presence of corrosive agents in the untreated objects and to the effects of the reagents usually employed. Practical methods of washing and for controlling the process by measuring electrical conductivity are described.

The Night Sky in November

NEW moon occurs on Nov. 14d. 12h. 01m., U.T., and full moon on Nov. 29d. 16h. 50m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Nov. 8d. 05h., Jupiter 6° N.; Nov. 12d. 01h., Mars 6° N.; Nov. 16d. 07h., Venus 0.2° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mercury is in con-

junction with Spica on Nov. 2d. 11h., Mercury 4.5° N.; Jupiter with Regulus on Nov. 8d. 13h., Jupiter 0.3° N.; Venus with Antares on Nov. 12d. 22h., Venus 4.1° N.; and Mars with Spica on Nov. 16d. 18h., Mars 3.2° S. Mercury rises at 5h. 10m. on November 1, which is nearly 1½ hr. before sunrise, and may be seen for a short time in the eastern sky, stellar magnitude 0.7. Its proximity to Spica on November 2 has already been referred to. About the middle of the month, it rises an hour before sunrise and will not be easily observed; after this it draws closer to the sun, reaching superior conjunction early in December. Venus sets at about 17h. 10m. during November; its stellar magnitude remains -3.3, and the visible portion of its illuminated disk varies from 0.963 to 0.924. This decrease is just balanced by its decreased distance from the earth—from 152 to 142 million miles—in consequence of which its stellar magnitude remains unaltered. Mars rises about 4h. 20m. throughout the month. About November 9 it is a little south of θ Virginis, and its easterly movement takes it near α Virginis at the end of the month. Its stellar magnitude varies from 2 to 1.9 owing to its distance from the earth decreasing from 232 to 216 million miles. Jupiter rises at 0h. 15m., 23h. 30m. and 22h. 40m. on November 1, 15 and 30, respectively. Its close approach on November 8 to α Leonis, which is about two magnitudes fainter than Jupiter, has been pointed out. Saturn, in conjunction on November 16, is too close to the Sun for favourable observation during the month. The Andromedid meteors appear towards the end of November, but this shower is much less prolific than it was in previous years; owing to strong moonlight, they will not be visible this year. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Nov. 9d. 03h. 23.5m., 55 Leo (*R*); Nov. 24d. 22h. 23.3m., 19 Psc. (*D*); *R* and *D* referring to reappearance and disappearance, respectively.

Announcements

DR. J. S. CARTER, deputy chief inspector of alkali, etc., works, has been appointed chief inspector in succession to Mr. W. A. Damon, who is retiring; Mr. Damon will continue with the Ministry in an advisory capacity.

THE second World Congress on Fertility and Sterility, sponsored by the International Fertility Association, will be held in Naples during May 18-26, 1956 and will consist of twelve separate sections dealing with various topics, one of which will be on veterinary problems in animal reproduction. A general lecture will be given at the Congress by Prof. Nils Lagerlöf, of the Royal Veterinary School, Stockholm, on "Biological Aspects of Male Infertility". Those wishing to read papers must send in typed summaries by November 30 and full copies by January 31. All correspondence should be addressed to Prof. Edmundo G. Murray, Ayacucho 1375, Buenos Ayres, Argentina.

MESSRS. EDWARDS HIGH VACUUM (London), Ltd., have recently re-designed their model of the cold-cathode type of electron diffraction camera based on Prof. G. I. Finch's original design. Leaflet E.156/1 gives full details of the new model, which incorporates the latest vacuum valves, unions and fittings and pumping equipment, together with information concerning the electron diffraction technique and its applications.