

Man and Animals to Radiation" and "Planning of New Radiotherapy Departments" (April 27, at the Central Hall); "Planning of New Diagnostic Departments" and "Radiological Assessment of Bone Density" (April 27, at Church House); "Recent Developments in Linear Accelerators for Therapy" (April 28, at the Central Hall); "Industrial Developments in Diagnostic Equipment" (April 28, at Church House). The Silvanus Thompson Memorial Lecture will be given by Sir Bernard Lovell on "The Condition of Outer Space", at the Central Hall on the evening of April 26. Two exhibitions are also being arranged, one at the Central Hall and the other in the Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, British Institute of Radiology, 32 Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

The Night Sky in March

FULL moon occurs on Mar. 2d. 13h. 35m. U.T. and new moon on Mar. 16d. 18h. 51m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Mar. 1d. 14h., Regulus 1° N.; Mar. 12d. 20h., Saturn 3° S.; Mar. 13d. 00h., Jupiter 3° S.; Mar. 22d. 04h., Aldebaran 0.2° S.; Mar. 24d. 18h., Mars 7° N.; Mar. 28d. 21h., Regulus 1° N. There will be a partial eclipse of the Moon on March 2, invisible at Greenwich. Mercury is too close to the Sun for observation. Venus is an evening star, favourably placed for observation. Venus sets at 21h. 50m., 21h. 35m. and 20h. 30m. on March 1, 15 and 31, respectively, about four hours after the Sun at the beginning of the month. Venus attains its greatest brilliancy on March 5, when its stellar magnitude is -4.3 . During the month its distance from the Earth decreases from 44 to 27 million miles and the visible portion of the apparent disk from 0.315 to 0.045. Mars sets at 4h. 20m., 3h. 40m. and 2h. 55m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Mars is conveniently situated for observation. It is at a distance of 104 million miles from the Earth on March 15, when its stellar magnitude is $+0.6$. Jupiter and Saturn are too close to the Sun for easy observation. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Mar. 21d. 21h. 11.5m., γ Tau. (*D*); Mar. 29d. 23h. 45.5m., 59 Leo. (*D*). *D* refers to disappearance. The spring equinox occurs on Mar. 20d. 21h.

Announcements

LORD JAMES OF RUSHOLME, High Master of Manchester Grammar School since 1945, has been appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of York; he is expected to take up his duties early in 1962. Lord James, who is a science graduate of Oxford, was a member of the University Grants Committee during 1949-59.

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. BARTHEL, jun., assistant director of the Armour Research Foundation of the Illinois Institute of Technology, has been appointed to the Office of Special International Programmes of the National Science Foundation, Washington, where he will be programme director for foreign science activities.

MR. R. P. NEWMAN has been appointed head of the Members' Service Department of the British Welding Research Association in succession to Mr. P. H. R. Lane, who has been appointed director of

research of the Drop Forging Research Association. Mr. T. R. Gurney will succeed Mr. Newman in charge of fatigue researches at the British Welding Research Association.

DR. C. G. HUNTER, formerly professor of physiological hygiene, School of Hygiene, and associate professor, Banting and Best Department of Medical Research, University of Toronto, has been appointed director of the Tunstall Laboratory, near Sittingbourne, Kent, recently opened by 'Shell' Research. The laboratory will be concerned with the possible effects on man and other vertebrates of contact with products being developed by the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, and has four divisions, dealing with pathology and pharmacology, physiology, chemistry and biochemistry, respectively.

THE Ninth German Plastics Convention is to be held in Berlin during April 12-14. Further information can be obtained from the Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Deutsche Kunststoff-Industrie, Karlstrasse 21, Frankfurt am Main.

THE Plant Phenolics Group is holding a meeting on "The Importance of Plant Phenolics in Industry" at Cambridge during April 10-12. Further information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Low Temperature Research Station, Downing Street, Cambridge.

THE West German Starch Research Station, Detmold, is organizing an international conference on "Starch" at the Cereal Research Association, Detmold, during April 26-28. Further information can be obtained from W. Kempf, Cereal Research Station, P.O. Box 23, Detmold, West Germany.

THE National Vegetable Research Station Association is holding a members' day on March 1. The subject of the day's programme will be "Soil Physical Conditions affecting Plant Growth". Further information can be obtained from Mr. G. Lesson, National Vegetable Research Station, Wellesbourne, Warwick.

THE annual conference, organized by the Stress Analysis Group of the Institute of Physics and Physical Society, will be held in the University of Southampton during April 24-27. The topic for the conference will be "The Mechanics of Rupture". Particulars of the meeting can be obtained from Mr. L. Lawrence, Institute of Physics and Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

THE Easter congress of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare is to be held at the University of Liverpool Veterinary Field Station, Leahurst, Neston, Wirral, Cheshire, during April 10-14. The programme will include lectures, discussions and visits connected with the Federation's work and with animal welfare in general. Inquiries should be sent to U.F.A.W. (Easter Congress), 7a Lamb's Conduit Passage, London, W.C.1.

THE anniversary meeting of the Chemical Society is to be held in Liverpool during April 11-14. The meeting will include two concurrent symposia, namely, "Developments in the Chemistry of Boron Compounds" and "Some Aspects of the Chemistry of Natural Products", and also a number of visits. The meeting, other than the annual general meeting (April 13), will be open to the public. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.