

is to be held during April 25–26. The programme will include: the effects of surface-active agents on the swelling and solubility of various granular starches; an approximate determination of number average of polymerization of amylose and amylopectin in degraded starches without recourse to fractionation; a study of the mild oxidation of wheat starch by alkaline hypochlorite; specificity of starch metabolizing enzymes; the thermal degradation of starch; rheology of starch; paper chromatography of starch. Further information can be obtained from the organizing secretary, W. Kempf, Cereal Research Station, P.O. Box 23, Detmold, West Germany.

### Annual Congress on Radiology

THE twenty-third annual congress and exhibition of the British Institute of Radiology is to be held at Church House, Westminster, during April 26–27. Subjects under discussion will include: radiation protection in the Atomic Energy Authority (Sir William Penney); the implications of the reports of the Adrian Committee (Prof. B. Windeyer, Dr. S. B. Osborn, Dr. G. M. Ardran, Prof. F. W. Spiers and Dr. R. H. Mole); papers on radiographic and technical subjects (W. Watson, Prof. B. G. Ziedses des Plantes, Dr. G. Spiegler, Dr. R. Reinsma, Prof. G. J. van der Plaats, M. J. Butler, R. A. Lambert and Dr. F. C. Connolly); fractionation and dose-rate (Dr. F. Ellis, Dr. J. F. Fowler, Miss B. Stern, Dr. D. K. Sambrook and R. Oliver); paediatric radiology (Dr. R. Astley, Dr. N. Walker, Dr. W. P. Cockshott, Dr. S. P. Rawson and Dr. J. Sutcliffe); pre-therapeutic experiments with the fast neutron beam from the Medical Research Council cyclotron (Dr. J. F. Fowler, Dr. R. L. Morgan, Dr. D. K. Bewley, Mrs. S. Hornsey, Dr. G. Silini, Mrs. B. A. Turner, Dr. R. H. Thomlinson and Miss J. A. Stevenson. The Mackenzie Davidson Memorial Lecture, entitled "Reflexions on the Spread of Tumours by the Blood Stream and the Prevention and Control of Metastases", will be delivered by Prof. D. W. Smithers. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, British Institute of Radiology, 32 Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

### The Night Sky in April

NEW moon occurs on Apr. 4d. 19h. 45m. U.T. and full moon on Apr. 20d. 00h. 34m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Apr. 1d. 23h., Jupiter 0.5° N.; Apr. 2d. 23h., Mars 2° N.; Apr. 5d. 22h., Venus 5° N.; Apr. 8d. 14h., Aldebaran 0.8° S.; Apr. 14d. 23h., Regulus 0.8° S.; Apr. 27d. 21h., Saturn 0.8° S.; Apr. 29d. 15h., Jupiter 1° N. Mercury is too close to the Sun for easy observation, except during the last few days in the month, when it is an evening star. Venus is an evening star, visible in the west after sunset. It sets at 20h. 00m., 20h. 45m. and 21h. 35m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively; its stellar magnitude is –3.3. Its distance decreases during the month from 152 to 142 million miles and the visible portion of the apparent disk decreases from 0.964 to 0.918. Mars and Jupiter are too close to the Sun for observation. Saturn rises at 3h. 50m., 2h. 50m. and 1h. 55m. on April 1, 15 and 30, respectively; it is in Capricornus. It has a stellar magnitude of +0.9 and a distance of 948 million miles from the Earth on April 15. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Apr. 8d. 13h. 07.9m.,  $\alpha$  Tau. (D); Apr. 8d. 13h. 59.2m.,

$\alpha$  Tau. (R); Apr. 14d. 23h. 18.6m.,  $\alpha$  Leo. (D); Apr. 15d. 00h. 29.9m.,  $\alpha$  Leo. (R); Apr. 22d. 00h. 07.6m.,  $\gamma$  Lib. (D); Apr. 22d. 00h. 46.3m.,  $\gamma$  Lib. (R). D and R refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively. The Lyrid meteors are active during April 19–22, but conditions are unfavourable.

### Announcements

DR. R. M. C. EAGAR, keeper of geology at the Manchester Museum, has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Liverpool Geological Society in recognition of his contributions to geology and his services to this Society.

THE seventh Brotherton Memorial lecture, entitled "Chemical Processes for Nuclear Power", is to be delivered by Dr. R. Spence, deputy director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, at the University of Leeds on April 17.

THE fifth symposium in agricultural meteorology, entitled "Climatic Factors and the Incidence and Spread of Diseases in Plants and Animals", is to be held in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, on March 21. Further information can be obtained from Mr. J. A. Taylor, Department of Geography, University College of Wales, Alexandra Road, Aberystwyth.

THE fourth congress of the Fédération Internationale de la Précontrainte is to be held in Rome and Naples during May 27–June 2. The programme will include the following subjects: results of research with special reference to durability and fatigue; site considerations—problems and difficulties: remedies and solutions; economics of pre-stressed concrete in relation to regulations, safety, partial pre-stressing, lightweight concrete, etc.; progress in precast factory manufacture and standardization; outstanding structures in pre-stressed concrete construction: (a) bridges, viaducts and elevated roads; (b) building and other structures. Further information can be obtained from Mr. P. Gooding, Prestressed Concrete Development Group, Terminal House, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

A GENERAL discussion on "Inelastic Collisions of Atoms and Simple Molecules", arranged by the Faraday Society, is to be held in the University of Cambridge under the chairmanship of Sir Cyril Hinshelwood during April 10–12. The fee for the discussion will be £3, and further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, the Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, London, W.C.1. The discussion will be followed immediately by an informal discussion on "The Inhibition of Gaseous Free Radical Chain Reactions", to be held in the University of Cambridge Chemical Laboratory during April 12–13. Further information can be obtained from Dr. B. G. Gowenlock, Department of Chemistry, The University, Birmingham 15.

ERRATUM. Dr. Sheldon E. Kalmutz states that a reference was omitted from his article "Antibody Production in the Opossum Embryo" (*Nature*, 193, 851; 1962). The first sentence of the third paragraph should read "The immune system used was the elimination of the bacteriophage  $\Phi$ X-174 from the circulation (ref. 15)". Reference 15 should read "Uhr, J. W., Finkelstein, M. S., and Baumann, J. B., *J. Exp. Med.*, 115, 655; 1962".