

Organization, is to be held in India during August 27–September 1. The programme will include discussions on: medical climatology of arid zones; physiological anthropology; comparative physiology of arid lands; nutrition and heat; water and electrolytes; neurophysiology of heat exposure; significance of solar radiation in the heat balance; performance and comfort standards; psychological aspects of life in hot climates. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Natural Sciences, Unesco, Place de Fontenay, Paris 7<sup>e</sup>.

### The Night Sky in August

FULL moon occurs on Aug. 15d. 20h. 10m. U.T. and new moon on Aug. 30d. 03h. 09m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Aug. 4d. 08h., Venus 4° S.; Aug. 14d. 19h., Saturn 0.9° S.; Aug. 16d. 23h., Jupiter 1° N.; Aldebaran 0.9° S.; Aug. 24d. 22h., Mars 3° N. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Regulus on Aug. 10d. 05h., Mercury being 1.1° N., and Venus with Spica on Aug. 31d. 02h., Venus being 0.02° S. There is a penumbral eclipse of the Moon on August 15, partly visible at Greenwich, where moonrise is at 19h. 25m., mid-eclipse is at 19h. 57m. and eclipse ends at 21h. 39m., and the penumbral magnitude is 0.62. Mercury is too close to the Sun for observation. Venus is an evening star, visible low in the west after sunset and setting little more than an hour after the Sun. Mars rises at 0h. 10m., 23h. 45m. and 23h. 30m. on Aug. 1, 15 and 31, respectively. It is at a distance of 164 million miles on August 15, and its stellar magnitude is +1.3. Jupiter rises shortly after sunset, and remains above the horizon all night. It is in Aquarius, its stellar magnitude is -2.4 and its distance from the Earth on August 15 is 374 million miles. Saturn is in Capricornus, setting at 4h. 30m., 3h. 25m. and 2h. 15m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is +0.4 and its distance from the Earth in the middle of the month is 834 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Aug. 9d. 21h. 16.0m., 49 Lib. (*D*); Aug. 22d. 00h. 08.9m., 5 Tau. (*R*); Aug. 23d. 01h. 14.9m., 75 Tau. (*R*); Aug. 23d. 01h. 51.5m., 264 B. Tau. (*R*). *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively. The Perseid meteors are active during the first half of the month, but conditions are rather unfavourable for observation.

### Announcements

PROF. E. B. CHAIN, professor of biochemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has been elected an associate member of the French Academy of Science.

PROF. J. E. HARRIS, professor of zoology in the University of Bristol, has been elected a member of the Agricultural Research Council in succession to Prof. P. B. Medawar, who retires from the Council on September 16.

MR. J. E. C. BAILEY has been elected president of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association. Mr. Bailey, chairman and managing director of Baird and Tatlock (London), Ltd., Hopkin and Williams, Ltd., and W. B. Nicholson (Scientific Instruments), Ltd., and a director of Derbyshire Stone, Ltd., has for many years been prominent in the scientific instrument industry both as president of the Scientific

Instrument Manufacturers Association during 1945–50, and since 1952 as chairman of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association.

THE Challenger Society is prepared to make small grants for research in marine biology or oceanography at a recognized laboratory during the year July 1962–63. Applications, accompanied by details of the proposed research, should reach the Honorary Secretary, Challenger Society, National Institute of Oceanography, Wormley, Godalming, Surrey, not later than August 4.

A CONFERENCE on “Gasification Processes”, arranged jointly by the Institution of Gas Engineers and the Institute of Fuel, will be held at Hastings during September 10–14. Further information can be obtained from the Institute of Fuel, 18 Devonshire Street, Portland Place, London, W.1.

THE second congress of the International Council for Building Research on “The Influence of Changing Requirements and Developments in Materials and Components on Design and Construction” will be held in Cambridge during September 5–11. Further information can be obtained from the Organizing Secretary, CIB Congress 1962, Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, Herts.

THE third national conference of the British Computer Society will be held in Cardiff during September 4–7. Topics to be covered include: business data processing; industrial data processing; data origination and transmission; developments in equipment. Further information can be obtained from G. J. Morris, British Computer Society Conference Publicity Committee, I.C.T., Ltd., Putney Bridge House, London, S.W.6.

AN international symposium on “Information Theory”, organized by the Benelux Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the Belgian Society of Telecommunication and Electronics Engineers and sponsored by the Professional Group on Information Theory of the Institute of Radio Engineers, will be held in Brussels during September 3–7. Further information can be obtained from the chairman of the Organizing Committee, Dr. F. L. Stumpers, Philips Research Laboratories, Eindhoven.

A CONFERENCE on “Low-Energy Nuclear Physics”, sponsored by the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, will be held at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, during September 12–14. Subjects under discussion will include: the nuclear interactions of slow and fast neutrons; nuclear reactions induced by charged particles and  $\gamma$ -rays, nucleon–nucleon interactions; nuclear structure and nuclear models. Further information can be obtained from Dr. G. C. Morrison, Nuclear Physics Division, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Berks.

AN international symposium on “Magnetoplasma-dynamic Electrical Power Generation”, sponsored by the North-Eastern Centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in collaboration with the North-Eastern Branch of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the North-Eastern Branch of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society and the University of Durham, will be held at King’s College, Newcastle upon Tyne, during September 6–8. Further information can be obtained from the Symposium Secretary, Institution of Electrical Engineers, North-Eastern Centre, c/o C. A. Parsons and Co., Ltd., Heaton Works, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.