

and a new orientation into the use of didactic illustration for unacculturated groups is indicated.

University News :

Edinburgh

THE following appointments have been announced: *Readerships*, Dr. P. S. Farago (physics); Dr. B. Meltzer (electrical engineering); Dr. P. D. Mitchell (zoology). *Lectureships*, Dr. E. J. Williams (senior lecturer in biophysics); Dr. R. A. Wall (chemistry); Dr. O. L. R. Jacobs and A. R. Dinnis (electrical engineering); Dr. B. G. J. Upton (geology); T. Sprinks and E. J. Squires (mathematical physics); Dr. R. B. Galloway, R. C. Dougal and A. S. McKirdy (natural philosophy); Dr. J. R. Beloff (psychology); Dr. A. Huitson (senior lecturer in public health and social medicine); R. C. Burgess (public health and social medicine). Miss H. C. Nibbet has been appointed curator of the Geology Museum and Departmental Collections.

London

MR. SETON LLOYD, formerly director of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, has been appointed to the chair of Western Asiatic archaeology tenable at the Institute of Archaeology. Dr. J. B. Jepson, senior lecturer in biochemistry at Middlesex Hospital Medical School, has been appointed to the readership in biochemistry tenable at that School. Dr. Konrad Singer, senior lecturer at Royal Holloway College, has been appointed to the readership in chemistry tenable at that College.

Oxford

THE following appointments to readerships have been announced: Dr. J. L. Harley (plant nutrition); Dr. J. W. Linnett (inorganic chemistry); Dr. R. E. Richards (physical chemistry); Dr. L. E. Sutton (physical chemistry). L. Castillojo has been appointed university lecturer in theoretical physics.

The Night Sky in December

FULL moon occurs on Dec. 11d. 09h. 28m. U.T. and new moon on Dec. 26d. 22h. 59m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: Dec. 2d. 03h., Saturn 0.2° S.; Dec. 4d. 03h., Jupiter 2° N.; Dec. 16d. 07h., Mars 0.9° N.; Dec. 23d. 07h., Venus 2° S.; Dec. 29d. 14h., Saturn 0.2° N.; Dec. 31d. 15h., Jupiter 2° N. Mercury is too close to the Sun for observation. Venus is a morning star, rising at 5h. 15m., 4h. 30m. and 4h. 10m. on Dec. 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is -4.3 ; its distance increases during the month from 29 to 47 million miles and the visible portion of the apparent disk increases from 0.100 to 0.365. Mars rises at 21h. 20m., 20h. 40m. and 19h. 40m. on Dec. 1, 15 and 31, respectively. It is at a distance of 84 million miles on December 15, when its stellar magnitude is 0.0; conditions are now favourable for observation. Jupiter sets at 22h. 50m., 22h. 05m. and 21h. 20m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively. It is in Aquarius, its stellar magnitude is -1.9 and its distance from the Earth in the middle of the month is 480 million miles. Saturn is in Capricornus, setting at 20h. 15m., 19h. 25m. and 18h. 35m. on Dec. 1, 15 and 31, respectively. Its stellar magnitude is $+0.9$ and its distance from the Earth on December 15 is 985 million miles. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Dec. 8d. 19h. 13.8m., μ Ceti (*D*); Dec. 13d. 05h. 51.3m., ζ Gem. (*D*); Dec. 13d. 06h. 51.8m., ζ Gem. (*E*); Dec. 14d.

03h. 39.4m., 85 Gem. (*R*); Dec. 14d. 22h. 45.4m., 8 Cnc. (*D*); Dec. 14d. 23h. 41.4m., 8 Cnc. (*R*); Dec. 31d. 18h. 54.0m., 74 Aqr. (*D*). *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively. The Geminid meteors are active during December 9-14, but conditions for observation are unfavourable. The Ursids are active during December 20-22, and conditions for observation are favourable: the radiant is near R.A. 14h. 28m., Dec. $+76^\circ$. The winter solstice occurs on Dec. 22d. 08h.

Announcements

DR. C. N. D. CRUICKSHANK, formerly assistant director of the Medical Research Council Unit for Research on the Experimental Pathology of the Skin in the Medical School, University of Birmingham, has recently been appointed director in succession to Prof. J. R. Squire.

THE Medical Research Council has recently agreed to establish a Neuroendocrinology Research Unit under the honorary direction of Prof. G. W. Harris, in the Department of Human Anatomy, University of Oxford. The unit will be primarily engaged in investigating the relationships between hormones and the brain.

THE Medical Research Council has recently appointed a Committee on Steroid Sex Hormones under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Dodds. The terms of reference of this Committee are: "To advise and assist the Council in promoting research into the possible long-term effects of administration of steroid sex hormones".

THE tenth International Botanical Congress will be held in Edinburgh during August 1964. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Congress at 5 Hope Park Square, Edinburgh 8. Scotland. Copies of the first congress circular and a preliminary registration form are already available.

THE tenth annual conference of the Western Spectroscopy Association will be held in Asilomar, California, during January 24-25. The programme will include sessions on: energy transfer in laser materials; solid state; high resolution; planetary atmospheres and extragalactic nebulae. Further information can be obtained from R. A. Satten, Department of Physics, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Education in Vacuum Science and Technology", arranged by the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society on behalf of the Joint British Committee for Vacuum Science and Technology, will be held at Brunel College, Acton, on May 29, 1963. Further information can be obtained from the Administration Assistant, Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

ERRATUM. In the communication by Dr. R. A. Anderson and S. Sardo Infirri entitled "Effect of Electric and Magnetic Fields on the Boiling Point of Alcohol", which appeared on p. 267 of the October 20 issue of *Nature*, lines 10-16 of the second paragraph should read: we used the following frequencies and root mean square (r.m.s.) field strengths:

| Frequency (c.p.s.) | Field strength (kV/cm) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 | 2.7 |
| 50 | 8.5 |
| 250 | 2.2 |