

Carroll, Dr. P. D. Forsyth and Mr. M. F. Thomas (physics); Dr. T. N. Calvey (pharmacology); Mr. T. L. J. Lawrence (animal husbandry).

Newcastle upon Tyne

PROF. W. F. K. WYNNE-JONES, head of the School of Chemistry, has been appointed pro-vice-chancellor to hold office until September 30, 1968. Prof. A. G. R. Lowden, Dean of medicine, has been appointed pro-vice-chancellor to hold office so long as he remains Dean of medicine. The following appointments have also been made: *Senior Lectureship*, Dr. D. C. Turk (microbiology). *Lectureships*, Dr. B. E. Johnson and Dr. J. S. Rose (mathematics); Dr. P. Grieverson (metallurgy).

Basic Plant Science at Michigan State University

THE new Plant Research Laboratory established at Michigan State University in conjunction with the Atomic Energy Commission has initiated its research programmes and is inviting applications for graduate study leading to a Ph.D. degree and for postdoctoral research associateships in various areas of basic plant science. Graduate degrees will be awarded through the appropriate academic department of the University. The Laboratory, under the direction of Prof. Anton Lang, is at present housed in adequate temporary quarters and will move into its own building in the spring or summer of 1966. By the autumn of 1965, research will be in progress in the following areas: function and mechanism of action of growth hormones, including hormonal control of enzyme activity; growth regulation through regulation of enzyme activity; cell wall metabolism; tissue culture; metabolic foundations of the control of plant growth by environmental factors; ageing of plant cells. Additional research areas will be available as the permanent research faculty is expanded. Further information concerning the programme of the Laboratory can be obtained from Dr. Lloyd G. Wilson, assistant to the director, MSU/AEC Plant Research Laboratory, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. Applications for admission to graduate study should be addressed to the Director of Admissions, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

The Night Sky in April

NEW MOON occurs on April 2d 00h U.T. and full Moon occurs on April 15d 23h. The following conjunctions with the Moon occur: April 5d 06h, Jupiter 1° N.; April 12d 12h, Mars 2° S.; April 27d 03h, Saturn 4° N. Mercury and Venus are not favourably placed for observation during the month. Mars sets at 5h 00m, 4h 05m, 3h 05m on April 1, 16 and 30, respectively, its stellar magnitude is -0.3 ; its distance from the Earth on April 15 is 72 million miles and is in Leo. Jupiter sets at 22h 40m, 22h 00m, 21h 20m at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; its stellar magnitude is -1.6 ; its distance from the Earth on April 15 is 543 million miles and is in Taurus. Saturn rises at 5h 15m, 4h 10m, 3h 10m at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively; its stellar magnitude is $+1.3$; its distance from the Earth on April 15 is 971 million miles and is in Aquarius. The following occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 occur, observation being made at Greenwich: April 5d 19h 48-8m, 43 Tau (*D*); April 7d 20h 22-6m, 5 Gem (*D*). *D* refers to disappearance.

Announcements

At a meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society, Dr. J. Baker announced that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh had accepted the office of president for the Royal Charter Centenary Year 1966. Mr. J. Bunyan is chairman of the Centenary Committee.

THE Institution of Chemical Engineers is to institute a medal in honour of George E. Davis, a pioneer in chemical

engineering and author of the first text-book on the subject. Dr. A. J. V. Underwood is to be the first to receive the award, which will be presented in London in the autumn.

PROF. N. N. GREENWOOD, head of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, has been appointed a member of the Panel on the Application of the Mössbauer Effect in Chemistry and Solid State Physics of the International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna).

THE annual conference of the Ergonomics Research Society will be held at University College, Dublin, during April 5-9. Further information can be obtained from J. Spencer, 8-10 Berkeley Square, Bristol 8.

AN international symposium on "Scientific Aspects of Snow and Ice Avalanches" will be held in Davos during April 5-10. Further information can be obtained from the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, 7260 Weissfluhjoch/Davos.

A CONFERENCE on "Industrial Diamonds in Metalworking", sponsored by the Haus der Technik, Essen, and De Beers Industrial Diamond Division, will be held in Essen on April 7. Further information can be obtained from the Haus der Technik, P.O. Box 668, Hollestr. 1a, Essen 43.

A MEETING of the Physical Biochemistry Group of the British Biophysical Society on "The Physical Chemistry of Separation Methods on Support Media" will be held in Cambridge on April 7. Further information can be obtained from Dr. P. Johnson, Colloid Science Laboratory, Free School Lane, Cambridge.

A CONFERENCE on "Elementary Particles", arranged by the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, will be held in the University of Birmingham during April 5-7. Further information can be obtained from the Administration Assistant, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A MEETING of the Basic Science Section of the British Ceramic Society on "Mechanical Properties of Non-metallic Crystals and Polycrystals" will be held in Birmingham during April 5-7. Further information can be obtained from Dr. J. P. Roberts, Houldsworth School of Applied Science, the University, Leeds 2.

A CONFERENCE on "Phenomena in the Neighborhood of Critical Points", sponsored by the U.S. National Bureau of Standards aided by a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation, will be held at the Bureau during April 5-9. Further information can be obtained from Dr. M. S. Green, Statistical Physics Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Vibration in Civil Engineering", arranged by the British National Section of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, will be held in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, during April 5-7. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, British Section of the International Association of Earthquake Engineering, Institution of Civil Engineering, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

A DEMONSTRATION meeting concerned with "Methods in Taxonomy" will be held by the Systematics Association at the British Museum (Natural History) on March 31. The meeting will consist of about fifty exhibits of methods and techniques used in taxonomy, arranged under the following headings: collecting; preparation and maintenance; examination and extraction of information; analysis and synthesis; dissemination of results. Further information can be obtained from W. G. Fry, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.