

Colonial Service: Recent Appointments

THE following appointments have recently been made in the Colonial Service: W. J. Blackie (deputy director of agriculture, Fiji), director of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, Hong Kong; E. S. Capstick (senior agricultural officer, Trinidad), deputy director of agriculture (crop husbandry), Trinidad; R. C. Michaelides (agricultural superintendent, class F, Cyprus), agricultural officer, class II, Cyprus; B. G. Montserin (chief scientific officer, Trinidad), deputy director of agriculture (research), Trinidad; I. C. Papadopoulos (temporary agricultural superintendent, class I, Cyprus), agricultural officer, class II, Cyprus; E. J. Shrubshall (deputy director of forests, Federation of Malaya), director of forests, Federation of Malaya; W. K. M. Mitchell (agricultural officer, Jamaica), senior agricultural officer, Jamaica; D. R. Wilson (statistician, East African Statistical Department, East African High Commission), deputy government statistician, Nigeria; B. O. L. Duke, medical research officer, Grade III, Nigeria; G. W. Ivens, senior scientific officer (botanist), Colonial Insecticide Research Unit, Tanganyika; W. Wilkinson and R. M. C. Williams, scientific officers (entomologists), East African High Commission; A. W. Anderson, veterinary officer, Gambia; A. G. Warren, veterinary research officer, Nyasaland; G. Usher, plant pathologist, Gold Coast.

The Night Sky in October

NEW moon occurs on Oct. 8d. 00h. 40m., U.T., and full moon on Oct. 22d. 12h. 56m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Oct. 5d. 13h., Mars 5° N.; Oct. 5d. 15h., Venus 5° N.; Oct. 9d. 10h., Saturn 8° N.; Oct. 10d. 01h., Mercury 3° N.; Oct. 26d. 12h., Jupiter 3° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, Mercury is in conjunction with Saturn on Oct. 4d. 01h., Mercury 3.5° S., and Venus is in conjunction with Mars on Oct. 4d. 06h., Venus 0.03° S. Mercury, an evening star, is too close to the sun for observation. Venus is a morning star, rising at 3h. 15m., 4h. and 4h. 45m. on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively. The stellar magnitude of the planet is -3.4 , and the visible portion of the illuminated disk varies from 0.88 to 0.93. Mars, a morning star, rises about 3h. 20m. throughout October, moving from the constellation Leo into Virgo, and towards the end of the month it lies midway between β and η Virginis. Jupiter rises at 20h. 55m., 20h. 05m. and 19h. on October 1, 15 and 31, respectively, and is stationary on October 15, afterwards moving westward in the constellation Taurus. Saturn is too close to the sun for favourable observation and on October 23 is in conjunction with the sun. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follows, observations being made at Greenwich: Oct. 2d. 4h. 12.5m., θ Canc. (*R*); and Oct. 24d. 19h. 54.6m., 36 Taur. (*R*), *R* referring to reappearance. On October 1 the planet Uranus, magnitude 5.9, occulted by the moon, reappears at 4h. 20.0m. The Orionid meteors, active from about October 20 to October 23, will not be easily observed owing to moonlight.

Announcements

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH has accepted honorary fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society. The following have also been made honorary fellows of the Society: Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, Sir Arthur Gouge and Lord Hives.

THE Lord President of the Council has appointed Mr. W. L. Heywood, general secretary of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, and secretary of the National Association of Unions in Textile Trades, to be a member of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

THE Italian Society of Geophysics and Meteorology is offering a scholarship of 300,000 lire for the academic year 1953-54, which is intended to enable a student to complete his studies in meteorology or geophysics and is tenable at either the Institute of Terrestrial Physics of the University of Naples or the Institute of Geophysics and Geodetics of the University of Genoa. Details of application, which should be made before October 15, and further information can be obtained from the Society at Via Balbi 5, Genova.

THE thirtieth meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in Canberra during January 13-20, 1954, under the presidency of Sir Theodore Rigg, director of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, New Zealand. The hon. secretary for this meeting will be Dr. C. Barnard, Box 109, City, Canberra.

THE Physical Society's thirty-eighth Annual Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus will be held during April 8-13, 1954, in the Physics and Chemistry Departments of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, London, S.W.7. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary-Editor of the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

ARISING from the success of the short symposium on analytical chemistry held in Birmingham in 1952, the Midland Society for Analytical Chemistry will be holding a similar but larger symposium during August 25-September 1, 1954. Besides the presentation of original papers and discussions of recent advances in various analytical fields, there will be an exhibition of new and special apparatus, and visits to local places of interest will be organized. Further information can be obtained from the secretary of the symposium, Dr. J. W. Robinson, Post Office Engineering Department, Birmingham 9.

A CONFERENCE on "Field Studies in Urban Areas", suitable especially for teachers, will be held in the Anatomy Theatre, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, on October 24. The conference is being organized by the Association of Agriculture and the Joint Biology Committee, the latter being made up of representatives of various teaching, biological and nursing bodies. The chairman of the conference will be Mr. F. H. C. Butler, director of the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Joint Biology Committee, 11 Fillebrook Hall, Fillebrook Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11.

A SHORT summary of the views of Einstein, De Sitter, Friedmann, Eddington and others on the expanding universe is given by Paul Coudere in an article entitled "Les Théories de l'Univers en Expansion" (*L'Astronomie*, January 1953). The author holds the relativity theory of the expansion of the universe to be valid until proof to the contrary is forthcoming. The article is a useful synopsis of the author's more comprehensive treatment of the subject in "The Expansion of the Universe" (1952), translated by J. B. Sidgwick.