

COMMENT

The session for 1947/48 finishes in September, thus when we gather together on the first Thursday of October it will be for the Annual General Meeting.

In accordance with the rules of the Society all office holders and the entire Committee retire, therefore it is necessary to elect a new controlling body of members. Retiring officers are eligible for re-election.

Last year the election took place by a show of hands at the Annual General Meeting, but the Committee have decided that this year it will be conducted by the correct procedure of a ballot paper, therefore, with this copy of the Bulletin you will find the necessary form for you to use for voting for any member you consider suitable to act on the Committee. The retiring officers are listed and should you desire them re-elected, place a tick against their name.

The President is elected by the Committee, and it is with great pleasure that we announce that for the coming session Mr. A. W. Lane Hall has consented to take the highest honour we can offer him. We have on a number of occasions stressed the invaluable work Mr. Lane Hall has done for the Society - the advice and help he has so readily afforded all and everyone who wanted to know anything about astronomy; he never seems to be defeated no matter how abstruse the question may be. We feel sure he will not mind our saying he is our most valuable asset.

Finally, may we offer our sincere thanks to Mr. Lake Aske, the retiring President, who so ably filled the breach when we lost Mr. R. F. T. Granger last January.

THE NIGHT SKY FOR SEPTEMBER 1948.

The Julian Date for September 0 is 243 2795. For other dates add the date.

**THE SUN.** Activity is still substantial according to the reduced number of observations being received. The solar north pole now reaches its greatest tilt towards the earth, and the spot groups accordingly show the maximum curvature is their apparent course over the disk.

Solar rotation No. 1270 began on August 16, and rotation No. 1271 begins on September 12.

**THE MOON.** For the rest of this year new moon occurs very near the beginning of the month, and moonlight interference in the evening months is, therefore, confined to the middle third of the month. Note how the full moon becomes rapidly higher in the sky with each succeeding month.

Full moon in September (on the 18th) is the Harvest Moon. It moves northward in the sky so quickly around that time that the extra length of its path above the horizon nearly compensates for its easterly movement, and it rises about the same time, about 6 hrs. GMT for several nights in succession, providing harvest light just as the sun fails. By contrast the Spring full moon rises a full hour later night by night.

There is an occultation of 161 B Capricorni on the 15th at 9 h. 37 m. GMT, low in the sky by the moon  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days before full, the first occultation observable here for several months, but the star is faint. There is a "near miss" of the fourth magnitude omicron Piscium about 12 h. GMT on the 20th.

**THE PLANETS.** Venus is very prominent in the morning sky. The crescent phase is over and the disk is just gibbous, and much smaller.

Jupiter is prominent in the south west, very low, and it is doubtful if it will clear the horizon obstructions for the open-air session.

Saturn has crossed over to the preceding side of the sun but not far enough yet to clear the morning twilight. Mars sets after the sun for the remainder of the year, but in brilliant twilight and on the far side of its orbit.

Uranus is coming round nicely in the preceding end of Gemini but the B.A.A. Chart is needed to make certain of identification.

**COMETS.** Comet Mr. S. Barnard's, the subject of some recent notes has faded beyond the reach of ordinary observers.

**VARIABLE STARS.** Suitable windows of light clear on the 9th about 12 h. GMT and 12th about 8 h. GMT. "Fixed" observers try to observe these to revise their knowledge of the comparison stars, and brush up their skills. The next campaign will be from October until February.

The field of a comet is well placed again, and the rising branch of the light curve should be easily seen with binoculars.

**FIXED STARS.** The Cygnus-Lyra-Aquila part of the sky is high in the south, and the Milky Way here provides some very rich fields when slowly swept with binoculars; the southern end of Aquila being very good in a clear dark sky. The square of Pegasus, when once identified provides some valuable pointers to the less distinguished part of the sky that follows.

#### NOTES, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS.

##### Ordinary Meeting.

The next Ordinary Meeting will take place at the Mechanics' Institution, Trinity Square, Nottingham, on Thursday, 2nd September, 1948 at 7.30 p.m. This will be preceded by a Committee Meeting to commence at 7 p.m., and members of the Committee are asked to arrive by that time.

##### NEW MEMBER.

We extend a sincere welcome to the following new member elected on the 5th August, 1948:-

Miss Pamela Hooley.

##### OVERHAULING & CLEANING OF TELESCOPE.

The good work continues, but there is still a lot to do and members are asked to do their utmost to attend on one or both of the two Thursday evenings in August. The dates are the 19th and 26th, and time about 7.30 p.m. This is the last chance to get all our instruments up to concert pitch as next month the evening observing sessions re-commence, so all who can possibly spare Mr. Lane Hall an hour, please do. You catch a No. 12 'bus from South Parade. Times of departure are:- 6.27, 6.42, 6.57, 7.12 p.m. and every fifteen minutes after. You alight at Lady Bay Road and the fare is 2½d.

##### BACK NUMBERS OF THE "BULLETIN".

The Secretary has a number of copies of most issues of the Bulletin, and those members who wish to complete their files are requested to inform him of any number or numbers they require.

##### OUTING.

In spite of the many setbacks experienced over the last proposed outing which with many regrets was finally abandoned, it is suggested by the Committee that an autumn outing to Oxford University would be a pleasing finale to the 1947/48 session. Members interested will hear more details at the next ordinary meeting.

##### MARS.

All who attended the August meeting must have found Mr. W. Fox's talk on Mars most engrossing. The fine sketches of the Canal System, drawn by Mr. Fox and shown to members by the medium of the epidiscope was certainly not the least interesting part of a very fine lecture.

##### TALK.

Following the usual monthly address by Mr. Lane Hall a talk will be given by Mr. Northcote. His subject will be 'Construction of Telescopes'.

##### ADDRESSES.

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