THE
NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

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CONTENT.

Applications for the outing have been flowing in very well and we now have only a few seats vacant, therefore, if you have not booked and wish to join the outing, please apply to the Secretary, Mr. C.A. Halley, as soon as possible.

Full details of the outing were given in the March Bulletin; they will be repeated at the next Committee meeting and in the May Bulletin. We would mention that some members of the Sheffield Astronomical Society and their wives will be joining us at Castleton.

THE SKY FOR MAY 1950.

The Julian Date for May 0.0 is 243 3401.5. For other dates add the date.

THE SUN. Solar rotation No.1292 began on April 8 and Rotation No.1293 begins on May 5. March and April produced a number of two-inch disks showing a large number of groups, and we have covered the winter better than was expected.

THE MOON. Lunation No.339 begins with the new moon on May 17. The moon is full on May 2 and May 31, but in the present setting of the moon's orbit the moon becomes absent from the pre-midnight sky about two days after full. There are no occultations of bright stars before midnight until the autumn.

THE PLANETS. Venus continues to hang low in the morning twilight, receding rapidly and now a small gibbous disk.

Saturn and Mars remain in the evening sky. There will be very close approaches by the moon to Saturn on the 25th and to Mars on the 26th. Closest approach in both cases is near mid-day, and an effort can be made to find the planets in daylight with binoculars with the moon as a guide. Saturn's ring finishes its small temporary widening and will finally close when Saturn is in line with the sun. Next year we shall be looking at the other side.

Jupiter rises in the dawn. It will still be visible this autumn when the open-air meetings are resumed.

Uranus is lost for this season in the sun's rays but Neptune is easily seen in binoculars with the aid of the hand-book chart.

OPEN-AIR MEETINGS. The director is willing to come over on the 27th April to open up for any mebers wishing to observe Mars if they will make arrangements by telephone.

A.W.L.H.

NOTES, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS. The next Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, 6th May, at 6 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A. The ordinary general meeting will be on Thursday, 4th May at the Mechanics' Hall, commencing at 7 p.m.

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