

T H E  
NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.  
B U L L E T I N.

NO. 7.

FEBRUARY, 1947.

COMMENT.

A month of the severest weather conditions for a goodly number of years has not encouraged astronomical activity. Even indoor pursuits have been difficult and it is therefore pleasing to report that, despite the extreme cold and snow-bound roads, quite a good attendance was reported at the February meeting.

The President, Mr. A. K. Bennett, decided however, to request Mr. Howard Stirling to give his main talk on "How to make a Telescope" at the March meeting in the hope that improved weather would allow the more remotely located members to attend.

Mr. Stirling accordingly contented himself with a concise but extremely interesting talk outlining his subject.

Owing to difficulties in producing 'The Bulletin', even in the present modest style, it has been found necessary to introduce two alterations in its form.

The first is that a definite limit of 4 pages has had to be stipulated as a temporary measure, and the second, that the late appearance in each month makes the current month's astronomical events out of date. Accordingly, commencing with this issue, celestial events will be given in 'The Bulletin' for the following month.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE SKY.

The Julian Date for March 0 is 2432245. For other dates add the date.

*S. Rose*  
The Sun.

Solar Rotation No. 1251 commences on March 17th. More sunspots can be expected during the month.

The Sun passes the First point of Aries (Vernal Equinox) on March 21st at 11 hrs.

The Moon.

Full Moon occurs on March 7th at 3 hrs.15mns.U.T.; Last Quarter on March 14th at 18 hrs.28 mns.U.T.; New Moon on March 22nd at 16 hrs.54 mns. and First Quarter on March 29th at 16 hrs.15 mns.

Perigee is on March 3rd at 20 hrs.U.T. and Apogee is on March 15th at 17 hrs.

The Planets.

Mercury is in inferior conjunction on March 8th and is not favourably placed for observation in the early part of the month. Venus is still a morning star, rising at 5h.02m., 4h.57m. and 4h.40m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. Her stellar magnitude varies from -3.8 to -3.6. Mars is too close to the Sun for observation.

Jupiter can be seen in the morning hours a little west of Beta Scorpii. It is stationary on March 14th, thereafter its movement is retrograde. Magnitude is about -1.8.

Saturn can also be seen during the morning hours setting about an hour before Sunrise.

*the best of all night.*  
Occultations.

There are no bright stars occulted during March but observers with optical assistance may care to note the occultation of Uranus (mag.6.0) on March 1st at 1h.08m. U.T. The moon is 8 days old (1st quarter nearly).

GLOSSRY.ANNULAR.

A term applied to solar eclipses when the Moon is at its farthest point from the Earth (Apogee) and consequently appears too small to obscure the whole of the Solar surface, leaving a ring of light encircling the dark Moon.

ANGSTROM.

A unit of measurement for expressing wave-lengths and equivalent to a hundred millionth of a centimetre, i.e. .000,000,000,1 metre.

ASTRONOMICAL UNIT.

The distance from the Sun to Earth, 93 million miles, used as a unit of linear measurement in the Solar System.

AURORA.

A terrestrial phenomenon in the form of coloured configurations of light seen in the sky at an average height of 65 miles. The cause is uncertain but it is believed to be the transmission of magnetic particles from the Sun. In northern latitudes it is called the Aurora Borealis and in southern latitudes the Aurora Australis.

---oOo---

NEWS OF THE DAY.ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

It has been announced that Professor W. M. H. Greaves has been elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Professor Greaves is Astronomer Royal for Scotland and Professor of Astronomy at Edinburgh University and was formerly Chief Assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

---oOo---

NEW BOOKS.

Dr. Martin Davidson, who is a prominent member and Past-President of the British Astronomical Association, and who holds the impressive distinctions of Doctor of Science, Master of Arts and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, has produced a new book entitled "The Stars and the Mind".

This book develops the theme of the influence of astronomy on human beliefs and is virtually the first work to appear in recent times which embodies all the latest developments in astronomy, and attempts to link these developments to the more general field of philosophic thought.

It is published by C.A. Watts & Co. and is priced at 10s. 6d.

---oOo---

CONSTELLATION NAMES.A Guide to Pronunciation.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>English Equivalent.</u>	<u>Pronunciation.</u>
ANDROMEDA.	Andromeda	an-drom'e-da
ANTLIA	The Air Pump	ant'li-a
APUS	Bird of Paradise	ā'pus
AQUARIUS	Water Bearer	a-kwā'ri-us
AQUILA	Eagle	ak'wi-la
ARA	Altar	ā'ra
ARGO	Argo	ar'gō
ARIES	Ram	ā'ri-eē
AURIGA	Charioteer	aw-ri'ga
BOOTES	Herdsmen	bō-ō'tēz

<u>Name.</u>	<u>English Equivalent.</u>	<u>Pronunciation.</u>
CAELUM	Chisel	sē'lum
CAMELOPARDUS	Giraffe	ka-mel'ō-pard-us
CANCER	Crab	Kan'ser
CANES VENATICI	Greyhounds	kā'nēz ve-nat'i-sī
CANIS MAJOR	Great Dog	kā'nis mā'jer
CANIS MINOR	Little Dog.	kā'nis mī'ner
CAPRICORNUS	Sea-goat	kap-ri-kor'nus
CARINA	Keel	ka-rī'na
CASSIOPEIA	Cassiopeia	kas-i-o-pē'ya
CENTAURUS	Centaur	sen-to'rus
CEPHEUS	Cepheus	sē'fē-us
CETUS	Whale	sē'tus
CHAMAELEON	Chamaeleon	ka-mē'le-un
CIRCINUS	Compasses	ser'si-nus
COLUMBA	Dove	kō-lum'ba
COMA BERENICES	Berenice's Hair	kō'ua bere-ni'sēz
CORONA AUSTRALIS	Southern Crown.	kō-rō'na os-trā'lis
CORONA BOREALIS	Northern Crown.	kō-rō'na bō-rē-ā'lis
CORVUS	Crow	kor'yus
CRATER	Cup	krā'ter
CRUX	Cross	kruks
CYGNUS	Swan	sig'nus
DELPHINUS	Dolphin	del-fi'nus
DORADO	Swordfish	dō-ra'dō
DRACO	Dragon	drā'kō
EQUULEUS	Little Horse	e-kwoo'le-us
ERIDANUS	Eridanus	e-rid'a-nus
FORNAX	Furnace	for'naks
GEMINI	Twins	jem'i-ni
GRUS	Crane	grus
HERCULES	Hercules	her'kū-lēz
H OROLOGIUM	Clock	hōr-ō-lō'ji-um
HYDRA	Water Snake	hi'dra
HYDRUS	Water Snake	hi'drus
INDUS	Indian	in'dus
LACERTA	Lizard	las-ser'ta
LEO	Lion	lē'ō
LEO MINOR	Little Lion	lē'ō mī'nor
LEPUS	Hare	lē'pus
LIBRA	Scales	li'bra
LUPUS	Wolf	lū'pus
LYNX	Lynx	links
LYRA	Lyre	li'ra
MENSA	Table Mountain	men'sa
MICROSCOPIUM	Microscope	mī-krō-skō'pi-um
MONOCEROS	Unicorn	mō-nos'er-os
MUSCA	Fly	mus'ka
NORMA	Square	nor'ma
OCTANS	Octant	ok'tanz
OPHIUCHUS	Serpent-bearer	of-i-ū'kus
ORION	Hunter	ō-rī'on
PAVO	Peacock	pā'vō
PEGASUS	Pegasus	peg'a-sus
PERSEUS	Perseus	per'sē-us
PHOENIX	Phoenix	fē'niks
PICTOR	Painter	pik'tor
PISCES	Fishes	pis'ēz
PISCIS AUSTRALIS	Southern Fish	pis'is os-trā'lis
PUPPIS	Poop	pup'is
PYXIS	Compass	pik'sis
RETICULUM	Net	rē-tik'ū-lum
SAGITTA	Arrow	sa-jit-a
SAGITTARIUS	Archer	saj-i-ta'ri-us

<u>Name</u>	<u>English Equivalent</u>	<u>Pronunciation.</u>
SCORPIO	Scorpion	skor'pi-ō
SCORPIUS	Scorpion	skor'pi-us
SCULPTER	Sculptor	skulp'ter
SCUTUM	Shield	skū'tum
SERPENS	Serpent	ser'penz
SEXTANS	Sextant	seks'tans
TAURUS	B ull	to'rus
TELESCOPIUM	Telescope	tele-skō'pi-um
TOUCANUS	American Goose	too-kā'nus
TRIANGULUM	Triangle	tri-an'gū-lum
TRIANGULUM AUSTRALE	Southern Triangle	tri-an'gū'lum ostrā'lē
URSA MAJOR	Great Bear	er'sa mā'jer
URSA MINOR	Little Bear	er'sa mī'ner
VELA	Sails	vē'la
VIRGO	Virgin	ver'gō
VOLANS	Flying Fish	vō'lanz
VULPECULA	Fox	vul-pek'ū-la

---oOo---

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.NEW MEMBERS.

A sincere welcome is extended to the following new members, who were elected on February 6th, 1947:-

Mr. J. T. Watts.  
Mr. E. Watts.  
Mr. F. Pooler.

ADDRESSES.

Correspondence intended for the Director of the Observing Section should be addressed as follows:-

Mr. A. W. Lane Hall,  
Devon Lodge,  
19 Hartington Road,  
Sherwood,  
NOTTINGHAM.

All other correspondence should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary as follows:-

Mr. A. J. Ashmore,  
97 Danethorpe Vale,  
Sherwood,  
NOTTINGHAM.

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will take place in the Mechanics Institution, Burton Street, Nottingham, on Thursday, March 6th, 1947 at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Howard Stirling will give his talk on 'How to make a Telescope' and Mr. Lane Hall will be present to describe 'The Night Sky in March'.

Members are reminded that they may bring friends to any of the ordinary meetings of the Society without entailing any obligation.

NOTTINGHAM.  
26th Feb. 47.