

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

NO. 15.

OCTOBER, 1947.

COMMENT.

The Society's first session came to a close on September 30th after 17 months' activities, half as long again as the future sessions will be, and there is no doubt that it can be considered as successful.

We increased our membership from 27 to 64, held a meeting every month without a break, heard 9 special talks on various aspects of astronomy and enjoyed an interesting visit to Rugby School Observatory.

The session was necessarily of an exploratory nature but we can be well satisfied that the primary need of the Society has been met, that of providing "a rallying point for residents of Nottingham and district interested in the night sky".

The new session will retain the popular features and include new ventures which it is hoped will prove pleasant and interesting to all members. The first step is the series of open-air meetings arranged for the third Thursday in each month at Trent Boulevard Schools, West Bridgford, where those members who have no telescopes of their own may meet informally for celestial sight-seeing. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Fox, our newly elected Vice-President, a 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " reflector will be available for regular use by all, and thus provide a much-needed opportunity of actually seeing some of the heavenly objects we can only talk about at the ordinary meetings.

Full details are announced in this "Bulletin" and it may be noted that in the first instance, the open-air meeting will take place on the fourth Thursday, that is, on October 23rd.

In matters personal, it may be remarked that Miss B. Chambers, a founder member and your Secretary's most able Assistant during his temporary absence early this year, is to be married this month. All members will join in offering the heartiest congratulations and sincere wishes for a long and happy married life to Miss Chambers and her fiancé.

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THE SKY IN NOVEMBER.

The Julian Date for November 0 is 243 2490. For other dates add the date.

The Sun

Solar Rotation No. 1259 begins on October 21, and Rotation No. 1260 begins on November 17. The number of two-inch discs is naturally falling off with the shorter days, but it is hoped a fairly continuous record can be maintained.

The Moon

Moonlight interference is at the beginning and end of the month, and full moon rises higher in the sky as the sun gets lower. There is an interesting occultation of the 4th mag. star Tau Aquarii of very short duration, or possibly a "near miss" in Nottingham, on the 21st of the month at about 6h.15m.GMAT. It is rather low in the sky but observable with binoculars if the seeing is good, the moon being just past first quarter and passing south of the star.

The penumbral eclipse of the moon in the early morning of the 28th will not be observable under practical conditions. There will be slight shading of the moon (not a shadow) at moonset, too near the horizon to be seen except in very favourable rural surroundings.

(Contd.).

The Planets

Venus is drawing away from the sun in the evening twilight and should be seen by the end of the month.

Mars rises about midnight and moves well into the sickle of Leo. The disc is still small and distinctly gibbous. On the 11th, Mars will be less than 1° north of Saturn and on the 27th, 2° north of Regulus. The rapid movement from Praesepe on Oct. 11th to Regulus on Nov. 27th will be obvious to naked-eye observers.

Saturn rises at about the same time as Mars. The rings are rather narrow. The satellite Titan is in line with the east end of the rings on the 5th and 21st and then North, west and south at four day intervals.

Comets

Encke's Comet brightens but passes into the morning twilight during the month. It may be detected about $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ south of Epsilon Virginis about 16h.GMAT on the 5th, (Moon at last quarter), and about 1° south preceding Zeta Virginis about 17h.GMAT on the 11th, (Moon absent). It is expected to be about 7th mag. Care is needed, especially on the earlier date, to avoid confusion with the many nebulae in this region of the sky.

Meteors

The complicated and long enduring Taurids will produce a few meteors nightly throughout the month from a radiant south of the Pleiades, the Leonids will give a few brilliant fast moving meteors on the 16th from a radiant near Mars and the Beilids may return in some strength between the 14th and the end of the month, from a radiant that used to be near Gamma Andromedae. All are essentially matters for expert observers.

Variable Stars

Useful minima of Algol occur on November 13th about 10h.GMAT., and Nov. 16th at about 7h.GMAT. These are the first of the real winter campaign to establish a new datum, and a very large number of observations are hoped for. Fuller particulars will be given at the November meeting.

O Ceti can be usefully observed twice a week.

A. W. LANE HALL
Director, Observing Section.

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

for the

Session, 1947-48

Elected at the Annual General Meeting,
October 2nd, 1947.

President:

R. F. T. GRANGER, F.R.A.S.

Vice-Presidents:

A. K. BENNETT

LAKE ASKE

W. E. FOX

Committee:

MRS. G. L. HARDY G. H. T. BUTLER

MISS B. CHAMBERS C. A. HALLEY

C. L. SWIFT B. EMERSON

D. K. LYNN.

Director, Observing Section:

A. W. LANE HALL

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer:

A. J. ASHMORE

(Contd).

INAUGURAL SESSION 1946-47.Financial Summary

	<u>Income</u>	£. s. d.	<u>Expenditure</u>	£. s. d.
Subscriptions		25.11. 6	: Advertising	12. 5. -
Donations		38.. 1. -	: Duplicating/Printing	29. 4. 2
			: Stationery	3.17. 8
			: Postages	5.14. 6
			: Miscellaneous	10.16. 8
			: Balance c/f	1.14. 6
		<u>63.12. 6</u>		<u>63.12. 6</u>

Auditors: Miss M. P. Green
Miss M. Davies

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTSAcknowledgments

The Committee acknowledge with gratitude the services of Miss M. P. Green and Miss M. Davies for kindly auditing the Society's accounts for the Session 1946-47.

Visit to Cambridge University Observatory.

The Society's second excursion will take place on Sunday, October 26th, 1947, when a visit will be made to Cambridge University Observatory.

The coach is due to depart from the Mechanics Institution, Trinity Square, Nottingham at 9.00 a.m. and will arrive back at that point at approx. 9.30 p.m.

Unfortunately, it is NOT possible to reserve accommodation for meals because of the general Sunday closing of restaurants, but there are facilities for lunch and tea at the Corner House Cafe, Cambridge. Members may either take advantage of these or make their own arrangements for meals, as they wish.

There are a few seats vacant at the time of preparing this "Bulletin" and any members who have not yet requested reservations, and who wish to take part in this particularly interesting outing, are asked to notify the Secretary as soon as possible.

Relatives and friends are welcome.

The return fare is 14/- and there is one vacancy for a Junior at half-fare.

Open-Air Meetings

An open-air meeting has been arranged for October 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Trent Boulevard Schools, West Bridgford, under the auspices of Mr. Lake Aske.

Mr. Lane Hall will be present as "guide" for this tour of the heavens, and Mr. Fox has very kindly arranged for the loan of a 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " reflecting telescope for general use by all members. Members who have binoculars and/or small portable telescopes are requested to bring them along.

Further open-air meetings are being arranged for the third Thursday in each month as a regular feature.

These meetings will only be held weather permitting!

If the sky is NOT clear on the evening in question, the meeting will not be held. In the event of doubt, a telephone call to Mr. Aske will clarify the position for that evening. Mr. Aske's telephone number is Nottingham 89130.

Trent Boulevard Schools can be reached by taking No. 12 Bus from South Parade (Council House Square) Nottingham, and alighting at Lady Bay Road (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. fare). The School is at the bus stop and will be seen immediately.

The ensuing open-air meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20th, to which the same arrangements apply.

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Next Ordinary Meeting.

The next ordinary meeting will be held in the Mechanics Institution, Nottingham, on Thursday, November 6th, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Lane Hall will give his usual talk on the Night Sky and your Secretary will speak about Eclipses of the Moon with special regard to the graphical presentation of their phenomena.

Thanks to the courtesy of the Nottingham Education Committee, we shall again have the use of an epidiascope and apart from using it to illustrate the feature talks, a display of the Society's own slides will be given.

Next Open-Air Meeting.

The second open-air meeting will take place at Trent Boulevard Schools, West Bridgford, on Thursday, November 20th, at 7.00 p.m.

Details of how to reach the Schools from Nottingham and arrangements for the meeting itself are given in the announcement above.

Bring your small telescopes, binoculars, star atlases, etc. and remember, the meeting will only be held WEATHER PERMITTING. The state of the sky at about 6.p.m. on the evening in question is the deciding factor.

Addresses

Director, Observing Section:

Mr. A. W. Lane Hall,
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Sherwood,
Nottingham.

Hon. Secretary:

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

NOTTINGHAM
9 Oct '47.