NOTTINGHAM [illegible]

BULLETIN.

No.27 October, 19[illegible]

COMMENT.

For the second time the Society has held its Annual General Meeting, thus we start on our third year and we all sincerely hope a successful one.

During the past year membership fell from 64 to 53; this is not a point on which we can congratulate ourselves when we consider that at the end of the inaugural session membership had been increased from 27 to 64. We should like to see our numbers swell to 75 this year, so will all of you - seniors and juniors, make a special effort to this end.

As will be seen from the Balance Sheet published in this number we are at least solvent, and much credit is due to Mr. A.K.Bennett in steering the Society's finances through all the difficult shoals presented all too readily in these hard times.

During the year we have acquired assets not of much interest to the ordinary mortal, but very valuable to the astronomer - we refer to our 8½" reflector telescope and the field binoculars of incredible size presented by the late Mr.R.F.T.Granger. As all members are aware these are housed at Trent Boulevard Schools, West Bridgford, and this generous concession is through the kindness of Mr.Lake Aske to whom we are indeed indebted, and this seems to be a good opportunity to remind members of this and pass him our sincerest thanks.

Finally, the Editor would like to express his warmest thanks to Mr.G.T.H.Butler and his secretary, Miss H.Flowerdew, who month by month deciphers the Editor's handwriting and transcribes same to stencils, and last but by no means least, to Dr. M.Whitaker who turns the stencils into Bulletins via the duplicator.

THE NIGHT SKY FOR NOVEMBER, 1948.

The Julian Date for November 0 is 243 2856. For other dates add the date.

THE SUN. Solar rotation No.1272 began on October 9, and rotation No. 1273 begins on November 6.

The solar north pole has been receding from its tilt towards the Earth since early September and reaches the limb when both ploes are just in sight, at the end of the month. Sunspots then trace straight lines parallel to the solar equator as the sun rotates.

THE MOON. Moonlight interference occurs in mid-month. Full moon on the 16th. There is still a slight tendency towards "Harvest Moon" conditions, and the retardation of moon-rise is only half an hour per night for two or three nights after full moon.

The total eclipse of the sun on November 1 is invisible in the British Isles. It can be seen just after sunrise in Kenya and the remainder of the track is oceanic, the sunset end being between Tasmania and South Island N.Z. North Island is tantalisingly on the totality track but the eclipse begins near sunset and total phase is not reached when the sun disappears.

There are no occultations of interest before midnight.

THE PLANETS. Venus is gradually drawing nearer the sun and will pass by on the far side early next year. Its apparent movement at this great distance is very slow, and it will remain out of view then for some time in contrast to its almost immediate re-appearance when it passed by on the near side in June.

Saturn, much higher and to the right of Venus, follows the sickle of Leo. Last winter it preceded it. It can also be identified by projecting a line south through the "pointers" of the Great Bear and Saturn and Regulus will be found close together. They are about the width of the "pointers" apart, with Saturn very slightly brighter to the left. Saturn will be brightening steadily for some months and its light can be compared with the steady light of Regulus which will always be near. The rings have closed to half the width they were last spring.

Jupiter has disappeared behind the sun.

The Night Sky contd:

Variable Stars. Evening minima of Algol are on the 14th about 10h 30m GMAT and 17th about 8h. GMAT. The field is now splendidly placed for accurate observation, but there will be moonlight, with a nearly full moon on both nights.

Mira Ceti is up to about fourth magnitude, and its fading to invisibility can be seen during the rest of the winter. Binocular users should be able to hold on to it until it approaches the evening twilight.

Fixed Stars. The Pleiades, Hyades and Orion - the typical winter group - have returned to the eastern sky, rather low in the earlier part of the evening. The bright and solitary Fomalhaut can be seen very low in the sky by projecting a line down from the preceding side of the square of Pegasus. I have seen it from these latitudes as late as Christmas, in a twilit sky. There are Messier nebulae in Andromeda, Auriga, Taurus, Gemini and Orion that will be visible in the evenings for some months to come.

GREAT ASTRONOMERS.

The Herschels.

Sir William Herschel was born at Hanover in 1738. Educated as a musician, with his sister Caroline, he came to England in 1757 as a teacher in Leeds and Halifax. Then he moved south to that place of the elite in the eighteenth century, Bath, in Somerset, where he took up the post of organist at the Octagon.

There, he turned his attention to astronomy, and with the help of his sister, constructed his own telescope. This was erected in the garden at the rear of his house. On 13th March, 1781, he discovered the planet Uranus and two of its satellites, Titania and Oberon. He himself named the planet Georium Sidus, in honour of King George III; this led to his being appointed the Astronomer Royal!

From Bath he went to Slough, where is 1783 he wrote several books on the Motion of the Solar System in Space, and also a paper ..."On the places of 145 New Double Stars." He discovered two of the satellites of Saturn, the rotation of its rings, and the periods of the rotation of Saturn and Venus, the binary stars and the constitution of the nebulae, which added greatly to our knowledge of the Milky Way. All this he did by the use of his famous telescope of forty feet focal length. He received the Copley medal from the Royal Society in 1781. William Herschel died in 1822, his life being invaluable to the progress of astronomy.

His sister, Caroline Herschel, must not be overlooked. She acted as his assistant all through his life. She herself discovered eight comets between 1786 and 1797, and many of the star clusters and nebulae included in her brother's catalogue, published in 1798 for the Royal Society.

Sir William Herschel's son, John, born in 1792 at Slough was educated at St.John's College, Cambridge, where he became a senior mathematician and scientist. In 1834 he established an observatory at Feldhausen, Cape Town, where he concentrated in studying the southern sky, discovering over one thousand double stars and nearly two thousand star clusters and nebulae. This energetic man, Sir John Herschel, was one of the first inventors of photography, thus making a most interesting link between the two sciences.

BARRIE D.DAVIES.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE
for
SESSION 1948/49

Elected by Ballot Paper and announced at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7th OCTOBER, 1948.

PRESIDENT.

A.W.LANE HALL F.R.A.S.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

LAKE ASKE

W.B.FOX

DR.H.WHITTAKER.

COMMITTEE.

Mrs.G.L.Hardy
Miss Lander
G.T.H.Butler
E.Dean
D.K.Lymn
C.L.Swift

HON.SECRETARY.
C.A.Halley.

HON.TREASURER.
A.K.Bennett.

DIRECTOR OF OBSERVING SECTION. (ex-officio)
A.W.Lane Hall F.R.A.S.

NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

ACCOUNTS FOR SESSION
1st OCTOBER 1947 to 30th SEPTEMBER 1948.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
Balance b/f from 1947	£1. 14. 6d	Staty & Postages	£18. 7. 11d
Subscriptions	£38. 15. 0d	Advertising	£6. 16. 0d
Donations	£17. 6. 0d	Rent - Apr.to Sept. 1947 b/f	£4. 10. 0d
Cash for Outings	£29. 1. 0d	do.Oct.1947 to Sept.1948	£9. 0. 0d
		Purchase of Duplicator	£8. 0. 0d
		Hire of Coach	£18. 16. 0d
		Refund of Fares	£10. 10. 0d
		Miscellaneous	£4. 18. 8d
			£80. 18. 7d
		Bal.at Bank 30/9/48 c/f	£4. 12. 1d
		Cash in hand c/f	£1. 5. 10d
	£86.16. 6d		£86. 16. 6d

A.K.BENNETT. Hon. Treasurer,

The accounts for 1947-1948 Session of the Nottingham Astronomical Society checked and found correct.

Signed. P.G.Reynolds, E.P.Green. } Auditors.

7th October, 1948.

NOTES, NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Next Ordinary General Meeting.

The next Ordinary General Meeting will take place at the Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham, on Thursday 4th November, 1948 at 7.30 p.m. This will be preceded by a Committee Meeting starting at 7.00 p.m., and members of the Committee are asked to be there by that time.

Open-Air Meeting.

As usual this will take place at West Bridgford.

Article.

The article on the Herchels from Mr.Barrie D.Davies is the first of its kind received by the present Editor of the Bulletin, and it is to be hoped that having broken the ice that plenty more will follow. Unfortunately, Mr.Davies, who has always been a staunch supporter of the N.A.S., has received his papers for Military Service, so we shall not be seeing him for some time. Still, he is remaining a member and we hope he will soon be taking his place once again at our meetings.

Talk.

Following the President's "Night Sky" address, Mr.Northrop will continue his talk - "Construction of a Telescope."

ADDRESSES.

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