

A.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

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Your issue of our new "S.D. Bulletin" began with page 2. Page 1 was used to represent all previously mailed circulars. Several requests were received for page 1. The above should clarify.

On October 5th and 6th the regular meetings of the AAVSO were held at the Harvard College Observatory. The Solar Division was represented by observers, Rosebrugh, Fernald, Buckstaff, Beckoff, Holt, Neale and Chase and S.D. Committee members Clayton, Rumrill and Heines.

At the morning session on the 6th the S.D. Chairman read the report on the activities of the Solar Division.

At the afternoon session Mr. H. Helm Clayton, a member of our S.D. Committee, gave a very interesting discourse on "Solar Relations and Weather". The discourse was represented supplementarily by stereoptican slides. Mr. Clayton was able to show definite terrestrial changes when a certain type of Sun-Spot Group was in evidence. Temperature across the continent from Alaska to the Great Lakes then to Nova Scotia were graphed and superimposed was a graph of the sun-spot activity. The results were striking and showed very close correlation in many cases.

We have long been trying to interest Weather Bureau People in Solar Activity and Weather Changes. They are just beginning to yield. Mr. Clayton is America's foremost exponent on this subject.

We are planning to have the S.D. study Mr. Claytons methods and to co-operate in a program planned by him. Be sure and obtain his two books "Solar Relations". They can be procured from his daughter at 1410 Washington Street, Canton Mass. The study of these will not alone foster a greater interest in this activity but will aid in the work of the planned program.

Dr. James C. Bartlett prepared a paper titled "Apparent Periodic Variations in The Visibility of The Sun's Photospheric Granulation". The paper was supplemented by some beautiful paintings of the granulation made by Dr. Bartlett. These were exhibited and many fine comments were received in the entire Granulation program. The paper was read in absentia by your chairman. We now have four observers co-operating with Dr. Bartlett and could use some more. Observers from the west coast are desired as well. Contact the Chairman if you can co-operate.

In the evening at the annual banquet held at the Harvard Faculty Club Mr. H. B. Rumrill also a committee member and a sun-spot observer of long standing gave a very interesting talk on his experiences in the observations of sun-spots during the last three sun-spot cycles. Think of it! Thirty-three years of sun-spot observations. We have certainly a goal to attain if we hope to follow his example. Mr. Rumrill is an authority on eye-piece optics. He has in addition contributed many articles to various Journals on both sun-spots and eye-pieces.

Some very fine drawings by Mr. Buckstaff of sun-spots on special forms, were also exhibited at the afternoon session and were enjoyed by all those present.

S.D. Photos are still coming in. Do not forget we would like you at your telescope as well. January 1st is the dead limit. After that they will be prepared for mailing to the entire S.D. A real treat is in store for you.

Observers using reflector telescopes for their sun-spot observations are requested to send to the chairman their method of observation so that these can be used for Bulletin material to help other observers who are beginning the work. State size of mirror, focal length, prism size; type of eye-piece and filter used if visual observations are made. If projection, describe same as above.

Observers who plan to make graphs from the data obtained from observations can get suitable graph paper from the Codex Book Co., Norwood, Mass. They publish a fine catalogue.

A fund is being established by the American Astronomical Society to " --provide annually a distinguished lecturer, perhaps occasionally from beyond the bounds of this country -- ". Dr. Henry Norris Russell is " one of the most distinguished of the world's scientists ". The committee invites you to participate in the contributions for this very worthy cause. A check for the total amount received will be sent as coming from the AAVSO Solar Division with a list of the individual contributors. Amounts from \$1.00 upwards will be welcome. Kindly send your contribution to your S.D. Chairman before Jan 1st.

This Bulletin offers its pages as a medium for exchange or sale of astronomical instruments. We will publish what you have to offer, those interested, then, can contact the owner directly.

A second invitation to become a member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers ( our Sponsor ) is extended to those of our observers who have not already done so. Dues are \$3.00 a year, and are used to defray the expenses of the S.D. as well as the general expense of the AAVSO. Application blanks can be obtained from the S.D. chairman.

October, just passed, has been a very busy sun-spot month. Since the beginning of the present cycle, 1944, October had the highest count for both groups and spots. The maximum of this cycle will be reached in 1948-49. For those who are first going through a sun-spot cycle's observation, the largest and complex groups make their appearance during a year to a year and a half after maximum has been reached. At that time we may see groups 150,000 miles long. Correlative disturbances are then most evident in occurrence, such as those in Terrestrial Magnetism, Natural Earth Currents, Atmospheric Electricity and Radio. There is an exciting period coming.

Incidentally, the proper, or rather the chosen way of writing what we mainly observe, is Sun-Spots, a compound word, Hyphenated.

Several good suggestions have come from S.D. observers for the improvement of the Bulletin and the S.D. itself. Mr. Ben C. Parmenter, Seattle, Wash. suggests that some sort of identification be given each observer. Such a suitable poster which can be framed can be conveniently hung in one's own observatory or other favorite place having on it the S.D. Insignia which the chairman is now designing. This is your Bulletin so help us to improve it and the S.D. with your suggestions.