

E.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

Noel J. Heimes, Editor.

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560 Broadway,
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Following the issuance of the November Bulletin, word reached us of the death of Dr. William L. Holt, one of our enthusiastic solar observers. Dr. Holt was present and took an active part in the October AAVSO meeting at Harvard Observatory. Your chairman had a very pleasant talk with him at that time. Very shortly after his arrival at home, Amherst, Mass., he passed away quite suddenly. Dr. Holt was long a member of the AAVSO and an ardent observer of Variable Stars. Solar Reports were received from him, monthly, for the past two and one half years. Possessor of a very pleasant and congenial personality which brought him many warm friendships, his greatest self-proclaimed award was the Scroll, at Smith College Observatory in May 1946 at the Spring Meeting of the AAVSO for having made the Millienth observation for the AAVSO of Variable Stars. What a just reward to an unselfish contributor to science at a most opportune moment.

" I love not men the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, from which I steal,
From which I steal from all I may be, or have been before.
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.
from, "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage"--Byron.

The recent death of Mr. H. Helm Clayton has caused a ~~vacancy~~ vacancy in the Executive Committee of the AAVSO Solar Division. We have asked Dr. James C. Bartlett Jr. of the American International Academy at Baltimore, Md., to fill this vacancy. He has consented to take this responsibility, for which we are very grateful. Dr. Bartlett has shown great devotion to our activities, heads the projects, Granulation on the Solar Surface, and, Color in Sunspots, and we are fortunate to have him in this new capacity.

There has been a "sudden outburst of activity" in sunspot literature in various Journals and Publications which have reached this office in November. During the War emergency period when all attention was focused on the preservation of human liberties throughout most of the world, your chairman eagerly watched for notices of new publications on this subject, and is now awarded information which he desires to share with you. Following, is a list of Solar articles which all of you should procure and file for future reference.

1. "The Current Sunspot Trend" Scientific Monthly, Dr. Harlan T. Stetson.
2. "The Sun Makes The Weather" Foundation For The Study Of Cycles Reprint No. 17. Taken from the March Issue of Scientific Monthly. Dr. C. G. Abbot.
3. "A Century Of Sunspots" Dr. R. S. Richardson. Astronomical Society Of The Pacific Leaflet No. 213 Nov. 1946, San Francisco, Cal.
4. "An Eruptive Prominence Of Record Height, June 4, 1946." Dr. Edison Pettit. Publications of the Astro. Society Of The Pacific. Oct. 1946 Vol 58 No. 344.
5. "Details of the Great Sunspot of July 1946 with instructive photographs." In same publication mentioned in item 4. Mount Wilson Report.
6. "Sunspots - and Business Activity" Dr. H. T. Stetson. Dunn's Review Oct. 1946.

7. "Earth's Invisible Shield" James L. Peck Science Digest Nov 1946 condensed from the complete article in Harpers Magazine June 1946.

8. "Cerebrospinal Meningitis and Sunspots" Walter G. Bowerman. Popular Astronomy Nov. 1946 p. 468.

9. "Variable Star Notes AAVSO. Mr. Leon Campbell Popular Astronomy Nov 1946. In same issue "Condition of the Present Sunspot Cycle" p. 493.

Coincident with the above, and, because you are interested in Astronomy, read "Projection of Meteor Trails On The Moon" by our Dr. Bartlett in Science Nov. 8, 1946 Vol. 104 No. 2706 pp. 448-449. Recently, in the Popular Pelican Books, Viking Press, P4, "The Birth and Death Of The Sun", Dr. George Gamow, has been reprinted. It will be worth your while to study this.

Item 8 in the above list is not a first contribution of Mr. Bowerman. He has written much statistically on Sunspots and their correlations. A list will be included in the next Bulletin of some of his findings. Several of these can be found in earlier issues of Popular Astronomy. Mr. Bowerman has recently manifested interest in your Solar Division and we are happy to have had this take place. You will hear more of him in subsequent issue of this bulletin.

We welcome the following new members in the Solar Division, Mr. Wm. Biscombe, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, Mr. Constantine Chassapis, University of Athens, Greece, Robert Doubleday, 227 Midland Ave., East Orange N.J., Mr. Demetrius P. Elias Thucydides 36, Greece, Mr. James Hillebrand of Detroit Mich., Mr. Constantine Makris, National Observatory, Athens, Greece, and Dr. S. Plakidis F.R.S. of the University of Athens Greece. It was through the interest of Dr. Plakidis that we have the reports now of the other Grecian observers. Thank you Dr. Plakidis. Mr. Joseph Swaen, 79 Station St., Berchem-Antwerp, Belgium, and Mr. Geo. R. Warren, Norristown, Pa.

Mr. Warren has very recently completed a very efficient refracting Telescope of his own design. An illustrated article covering this will appear in an early issue of Sky And Telescope.

Dr. C. W. Gartlein, Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., is conducting an intensive study on the Aurora Borealis. This study has been going on now for several years and is very interesting. There is still much to be learned on this subject. We of the Solar Division can be of great assistance to him by reporting, directly, on the Aurora. Dr. Gartlein has Charts, Report Forms and instructions available for those that will be seriously interested in helping in this very worthy project. Inasmuch as it is believed that the SUN plays an important part in the occurrence of the Aurora it is within the scope of our own work and we therefore should give Dr. Gartlein all the assistance we can. Write directly to Dr. Gartlein and report the same way. Several of our present observers are now, and have been for sometime, making observations for Dr. Gartlein.

If you are not a member of the A.A.V.S.O. you are invited to become one. Much information concerning the activities of the Solar Division is found in articles released and published by the AAVSO. Write your chairman for an application Blank.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your fine co-operation during the past year. It has been an active one and one of much interest. We have also experienced the bitterness of death amongst our membership, the first since its existence. We feel the loss deeply.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

to all of you.