

A.A.V.S.O.

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

Neal J. Heines Editor.

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We received a letter from Dr. J. H. Dellinger, Chief of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau Of Standards, Washington D.C., which was read at the A.A.V.S.O. meeting at Hood College, and, which will be of interest to you. We are very happy to bring it to your attention, it is as follows;

" The Central Radio Propagation Laboratory wishes to thank the AAVSO for its faithful support of the sunspot number observing program. Without the daily observations supplied by your Solar Division the compilation and prompt publication of median sunspot numbers would be impossible.

The American Relative Sunspot Numbers, as a reliable estimate of the Zurich numbers, are highly useful in the ionospheric frequency predictions made at this Laboratory. The value of the American data is such that there is under consideration a method to free them from frequent reference to the Zurich observations, maintaining at the same time the relative Zurich scale. American relative sunspot numbers would then serve as a completely independent check on the Zurich data, thus getting away from the situation where the reporters of sunspot numbers are also prognosticators of future sunspot activity.

It is to be hoped that with the cooperation of the AAVSO, its Solar Division Observers and you, the active chairman of the Solar Division, the sunspot number program will be continued as successfully as in the past two and a half years. "

A very interesting idea was conceived of by our observer Mr. Harold B. Chase, of 40 Hummoch Road, Quincy, Massachusetts, developed by him, and, approved of by your chairman. It was to hold a Conclave of sunspot observers, with their equipment, where possible, in order to exchange direct information on their methods of observation and on their equipment.

The battery of telescopes will be set up and each observer will make a sunspot observation through each telescope, recording the data observed for an independent check. Comparisons of all observations will be made at the conclusion by selected judges, after which will be held a general discussion.

From exchange of information obtained the observers would derive a better common understanding of the following questions;

What markings should be counted as sunspots ?

How should a group be determined ?

What is the most suitable equipment to use ?

What would you accomplish with different equipment ?

How can you improve your method of observation ?

How can you improve your equipment ?

Many other questions will arise to promote discussion all of which will be certain to improve the efficiency of observations.

Arrangements were finally made by Mr. Chase to hold this conclave at the old historic Milton Academy and the services of Dr. Albert Navex were secured as well as the use of the Milton Academy Observatory of which Dr. Navex is the Director.

Arrangements were also made for the group to visit the Ionospheric Measurement Laboratory of Dr. Harlan T. Stetson at Needham, Massachusetts, nearby. This will be a splendid treat for the participants and a just reward for their efforts.

A complete summary will be given in a future Solar Division Bulletin after the results have been carefully studied by your chairman. It will be in the form of a supplement to the regular issue of the bulletin.

The results of this gathering will no doubt invoke interest among other groups throughout the country all of which will make us better sunspot observers.

In the June issue of Sky and Telescope there appeared an article under the heading of " SUNSPOTS IN THE NEWS " which should be read by anyone interested in this work. Subscriptions can be had to this magazine, so full of interesting astronomical information, by addressing a letter to Mr. Charles A. Federer at Harvard Observatory, Cambridge 38, Mass. Subscription rates in U.S. are \$3.00 per year \$3.50 for residents in Canada and all Pan-American Postal Union, all other foreign countries the rate is \$4.00. Make checks payable to Sky Publishing Corporation.

There has long been interest in the Sun and Weather. Our former S.D. Comm. member Mr. H. Helm Clayton in the early 20s wrote a book published by Macmillan, N.Y. titled "WORLD WEATHER ". Later Mr. Clayton together with his daughter Miss Frances L. Clayton compiled two volumes of "WORLD WEATHER RECORDS " which contain an enormous amount of world weather data tables. These were published by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington under Volumes 70 and 90. More recently a third volume has been released Volume 105 and can be procured from the above institution for \$3.50 under Smithsonian Misc. Collections. This is valuable source data for the serious student of world weather.

~~Word has come to us recently of the death of Dr. Ellsworth Huntington.~~ **Error**  
Dr. Huntington is the author of " EARTH AND SUN " a book which should be read by every sunspot observer. In this book is a list of other works he had published on Climate and its effect upon mankind. A recent book "MAINSPRINGS OF CIVILIZATION ", was also his work and should be studied by us. These works can be loaned from most U.S. Libraries.

For newer members of the Solar Division we again suggest the purchase of Mr. Clayton's " SOLAR RELATIONS " which can be procured from Miss Clayton at 1410 Washington St. Canton, Mass. The price is \$3.00 for each of the two volumes I and II.

We recently have received a supply of Reprints of Mr. H. B. Rumrills paper "PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SUNSPOTS ". These will shortly be distributed to the entire Solar Division contributors of data at no cost.

Proof Reading for Dr. Stetson's Book "FROM SUNSPOT TO RADIO WAVES " has been completed. An announcement of its release will be given as soon as possible. In the meantime we should, if we have not already done so, read his. " EARTH RADIO AND THE STARS " in order to prepare ourselves for the forthcoming book. The suggested book can be had at most libraries or can be had from your dealer. It is a McGraw-Hill publication.