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EDITOR: C. H. HOSSFELD

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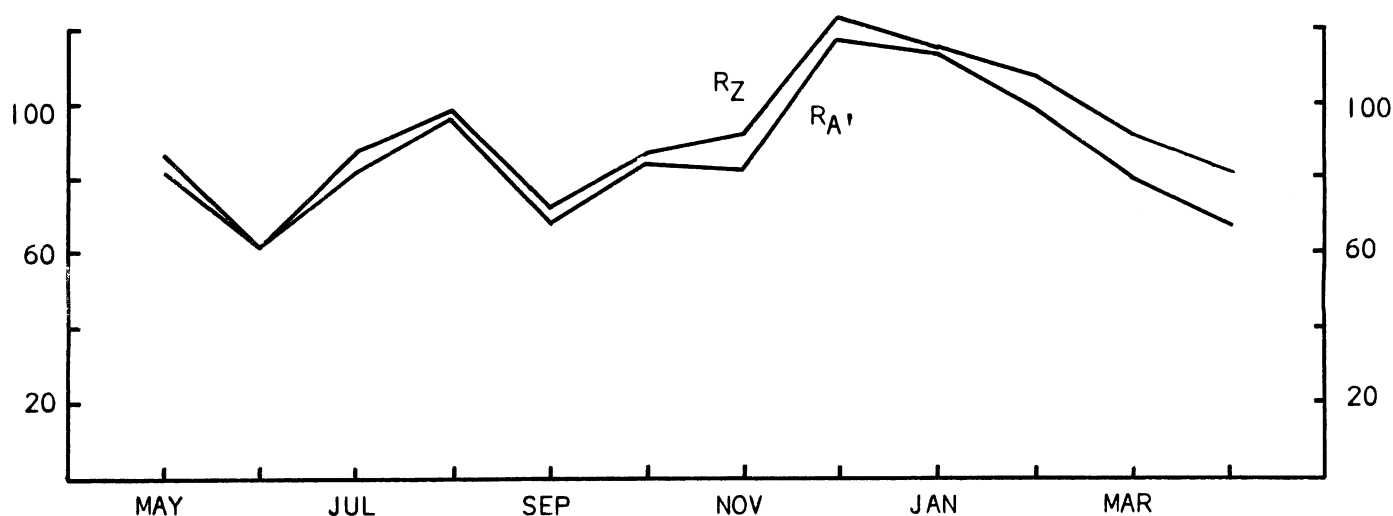
April 1968

SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING APRIL

April produced very little solar activity compared to recent months. Very few ionospheric disturbances were recorded by Solar Division observers and all were small. an event at 1313 UT on the 5th was recorded in both South Africa and the U.S.A. but this was followed by a quiet period until the 25th. A disturbance on 28 April was the first event recorded by a new SEA station, A-22, at Wellesley, Massachusetts. This SEA receiver was built and installed at Whitin Observatory by a Wellesley college senior, Connie Stowe, and has functioned perfectly right from the start due to its excellent location which is remarkably free of man-made interference. Although Miss Stowe will leave Wellesley in June, the SEA receiver will remain at Whitin Observatory and be kept in operation by Dr. Sarah J. Hill, director of the observatory. A reproduction of an SEA recorded on the 3rd of May by this new station appears on page 2 of this issue of the Bulletin.

Sunspot activity continued to decline during April. The monthly mean of the American sunspot numbers fell to 67.0. Most of the sunspot groups of April were comparatively small and on many days a sizable fraction of the daily sunspot number count was due to small A-type groups. The largest group of April came over the east limb on the 8th. The large leader of this bipolar group extended over $3\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of solar latitude and visible to the unaided eye. In spite of the large leader, the longitudinal spread of this group remained less than 10 degrees. An active group appeared at the east limb on the 29th and magnetic polarities of the 30th indicated that it had beta-gamma characteristics.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



AMERICAN (R_A) AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, APRIL 1968

day	R_A	R_Z	DAY	R_A	R_Z
1	108	122	16	84	114
2	101	108	17	62	91
3	72	93	18	42	63
4	82	96	19	44	53
5	82	89	20	43	63
6	71	85	21	33	64
7	71	79	22	35	68
8	66	82	23	22	50
9	87	94	24	46	48
10	95	104	25	49	64
11	87	95	26	46	50
12	75	83	27	47	57
13	65	60	28	66	82
14	87	96	29	61	71
15	88	110	30	92	96

April mean R_A = 67.0

April mean R_Z = 81.0

SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES RECORDED DURING APRIL

DAY	MAX.	SEA	SES	DEF.	OBSERVERS	DAY	MAX.	SEA	SES	DEF.	OBSERVERS
5	1313	1		3	A-17	28	2040		2	5	A-21
5	1312		1-	3	A-1	28	2040	1-		2	A-22
25	0047		2+	4	A-21	29	1512		1	3	A-21

