



EDITORIAL

Sir John McLennan

It has been suggested to me that some of our staff and students know little or nothing of the man for whom our physics building is named, and that a few words about him would be appropriate. I didn't know him at all well, because he retired from the headship of the physics department in 1932, and died in 1935. However, I did meet him and hear him speak both at McGill and in England, and I knew his reputation among his graduate students.

John Cunningham McLennan was born of Scottish parents in Exeter, Ontario and later moved to Stratford. He received his degrees in Physics at Toronto and Cambridge. Joining the Toronto Physics staff in 1892 he worked his way up to Department Head in 1907, and was Dean of the Graduate School from 1930 to 1932. His research included spectroscopy, kryogenics and cosmic rays.

There is no doubt that McLennan's aggressive leadership put Toronto's Department of Physics on the world map. However, it was often said that he took too much credit for his students' research, insisting nearly always on co-authorship of papers, and even, some said, delaying their degrees to get more work out of them. A story (obviously untrue) from Germany illustrates this: A German physicist returning from a visit to America was asked what was his impression of the great Toronto Physics Lab. He replied that as he approached the Physics Building he saw a man sitting on the stone slab beside the front door stamping papers, as they were brought out in bundles by assistants with a hammer similar to the stamp cancellation devices used in post offices. The German, curious, approached and found that the stamp read "by J. C. McLennan and".

McLennan was certainly a great showman, and his lectures kept his audiences on the edges of their seats. Once, lecturing to the R.C.I. in Toronto on his cosmic ray research on the frozen waters of Lake Ontario, he had just concluded the description of his equipment when the rear doors burst open and two parka-clad, snow-covered assistants clomped up the aisle to bring him the latest data on the cosmic ray intensity just measured under the ice of Toronto Bay.

In the early thirties one of McLennan's students was able to solve the long-standing puzzle of the origin of the auroral green line at $\lambda 5577$ (a forbidden OI line). I heard McLennan tell the story to a rapt audience in London, England, and his punch-line, though clearly a slip of the tongue, made a few of us smile. After telling how "at Kaplan's laboratory they were attributing the line to nitrogen, at so- and so's lab they thought it was such-and-such", he wound up with the triumphant shout: "and I, (pause) I was the only laboratory in the world that knew it was oxygen".

After his retirement McLennan went to England to work on cancer research with his great friend, Lord Rutherford, and to collect the knighthood which the King was only too happy to confer but which had been denied him by the Canadian Government's decision to abolish titles. He didn't live long to enjoy it.

J.F.H.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. MacRae was at the Manned Space Flight Centre Headquarters at Clair Lake City, Texas, March 26-27 and in Washington on Universities Space Research Association business on March 18.

Dr. Racine leaves today for an observing session with the 200-inch telescope.

Dr. Hogg has just returned from a visit to Geneva, Switzerland, and meetings of the Board and of the shareholders of Bell Canada in Montreal.

Dr. van den Bergh gave talks on "The Extra-Galactic Distance Scale" at the University of Pennsylvania March 3, the University of Maryland, March 4 and the University of Virginia and the U.S. National Radio Astronomy Observatory, March 5.

Dr. Chris Coutts leaves on Wednesday for Cerro Tololo for two weeks to observe on the Dunlap two-colour Survey of the Milky Way.

Dr. Anand talked to the Department of Astronomy, U.W.O., on "Rapidly Rotating White Dwarfs near the Chandrasekhar Limit" on March 5.

Most of the teaching staff and graduate students went to Kingston for the I.A.U. Committee meeting March 13-14. Papers were presented by Dr. van den Bergh, Dr. Kronberg, Dr. Anand and Dr. Roeder.

ECLIPSE

The total eclipse of the sun of March 7 was seen by Dr. Hogg and her son Dr. David Hogg and his family and by Dr. van den Bergh at Portsmouth, Virginia. They had a magnificent view and obtained colour pictures. The partial eclipse was observed locally, aloft by Dr. MacRae, at the Observatory with the 6-inch, and at Erindale by Dr. Percy and a group of 200 students.

APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Tricia Edwards has been appointed as of March 2 as Research Assistant, helping several members of the teaching staff on campus four days a week and at the Observatory on Tuesdays.

SEMINARS

MARCH seminars were as announced except that none was held on March 24. Dr. Spinrad's title on March 18 was "The Stellar Population of Spiral Galaxies".

APRIL SEMINARS

Thurs. Apr. 2
Room 202
McLennan.

Dr. Phillip Morrison, M.I.T., "Theory of Supernovae".

Thurs. Apr. 9
Room 202
McLennan.

Dr. Peter van de Kamp, Sproul Observatory, "Problems of Astrometry".

Attention is also directed to Dr. van de Kamp's R.A.S.C. lecture on "Barnard's Star" in Convocation Hall, Friday, April 10 at 8:15 p.m. This lecture is open to the public.

JUNE INSTITUTE 1970

Thanks mainly to Dr. Anand's energetic efforts a fourth June Institute has been arranged for Tuesday to Friday, June 16-19. The speakers this year and their topics are:

JOHN N. BAHCALL - Princeton and Cal. Tech, "Spectra of Quasars, and Neutrino Astronomy".

K.I. KELLERMANN - Green Bank, "Radio Sources, and Radio Cosmology".

DONALD E. OSTERBROCK - University of Wisconsin, "Planetary Nebulae, HII Regions, and Interstellar Materials in Galaxies".

RAY WEYMANN - University of Arizona, "Spectroscopy of the Seyfert Galaxies and Quasars, and Intergalactic Matter".

Anyone wishing further information please write to Dr. S.P.S. Anand, Department of Astronomy. The University can assist some visiting graduate students with living expenses.

Papers submitted in March

Nancy R. Evans, "UBV Photometry of Mira Stars".

S. van den Bergh, "A Jet-like Structure Associated with the Crab Nebula".

G. Fahlman, "Rapidly Rotating Supermassive Stars". (Ap. J. Letters).

H. Ross, "Verification of Radio Variability for the Galaxy PKS 0048-09".

J. Percy, "Light Variations of HD 190467" (J.R.A.S.C.).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

As usual I have greatly enjoyed the issue of DAVID DUNLAP DOINGS, this time for February 24, 1970. I constantly marvel at your News Gathering Power.

However, I regret that I must call your attention to one slight error, on page 4. The title of my talk was not "Pulsars, Quasars and Radio Astronomy". I would hesitate to select such a title with several brilliant radio astronomers on our staff. My title actually was "Pulsars, Quasars and Paleo Astronomy". The convenient dictionary in our library defines Paleo as "ancient, remote in point of time". I consider my qualifications especially adequate for discussion of this aspect of astronomy.

I remain, Gentleman

Respectfully yours,

HELEN HOGG

ALUMNI

Sherry Goodenough was on campus on March 18 and reported that Dave has a teaching appointment at Wheaton College, Mass., effective Sept. 1.

Dr. K.O. Wright (MA 1934), Director of the D.A.O., was married on March 21. Mrs. Wright is the former Mrs. Jean Ellis of Victoria.

BORN

To Dr. and Mrs. René Racine on February 24 at St. Michael's Hospital, a daughter, Juliette.

ELECTED

Dr. Heard has been elected Secretary of the Board of Trustees of York Central Hospital.