



EDITORIAL

"Spectroscopists Remembered"

Spectroscopy, laboratory and astronomical, are not as exciting as they once were, but I get pleasure thinking back forty years to the halcyon days.

My supervisor at McGill was J.S. Foster who specialized in Stark Effect. One of his great assets was a remarkable grating which delivered about 60% of the incident light into one order on one side---perhaps the first "blazed" grating, though the term wasn't in use then. Foster delighted to tell how he came by it. Like most gratings in those days it was ruled by the famous R.W. Wood of Johns Hopkins, and its property was quite accidental. Wood used to carry it about in his brief case and amaze his friends by demonstrating it. Unfortunately he came to McGill, and Foster (who could get blood from a stone) managed to talk Wood into parting with it by convincing him that, if he tilted his ruling diamond just so, he could easily duplicate the feat. According to Foster it took Wood years before he ruled as good a one again. Far from distressing Foster, this point was the punch-line of his story, and he would nearly collapse with merriment at the thought of poor Wood ruling away with diamonds tilted this way and that way while Foster and his students cleaned up the Stark Effect for one element after another with the remarkable grating.

At Imperial College in London I was one of the last students of Alfred Fowler, who in his heyday had been the leading British spectroscopist. Among other things Fowler had a spectral series named for him ($\text{HeII}, n=3$), but I think he took his greatest pleasure from a little verse about spectroscopy which was once published in "Punch". The concluding lines were "and if there's anything else you want to know, to Mr. Fowler you must go."

Among Fowler's other students at that time was a young Englishman named A.G. Gaydon. Not able to see himself as the academic type, he left after his Master's to take a job in a dye-works. Within a few months

a beaker of boiling chemicals blew up in his face destroying one eye completely and shattering the lens of the other eye to the point where he had very limited vision. Unable to continue in his job he came back to university and, to make a long story short, became one of the world's leading flame spectroscopists. Among Gaydon's many publications is a letter to Nature in which he describes the "colour" of ultra-violet light. Apparently the lack of a lens in his eye permitted him to see the UV almost to the ozone absorption band. He described the colour as pale mauve.

Apparently not all spectroscopists are admirable characters. Dr. van den Bergh tells a story of the late Walter Baade coming into the dark-room of the 200-inch and finding it in a frightful mess. "Pigs!" growled Baade, "All spectroscopists are pigs!"

J. F. H.

OBSERVING

Las Campanas

The expedition of Dr. Racine and Gerry Longworth to Las Campanas to install the 24-inch telescope has been delayed until the 28th, largely because of the recent earthquake which has damaged some roads near La Serena. No damage at our site, however; in fact the people on the mountain weren't aware of the earthquake until some of them went to La Serena the next day.

74-inch Spectrograph

A new dispersion (43A/mm) has been added by utilizing a 150 groove/mm grating which we purchased two years ago for another purpose. By tilting it so that its normal is inclined slightly to the camera axis we can use the long camera of the G12 and get a satisfactory blaze in the second order blue. Preliminary tests seem to promise for the G43 as good speed as the old G40 arrangement and considerably improved definition. Gerry Longworth has arranged things so that the regular (G12) grating mount can be replaced quickly and safely with the new grating mount without re-adjusting the tilting screws; the operation takes only a few minutes.

Chile in June

Christine Coutts had an observing run at Cerro Tololo in June. The weather was not as good as Chilean weather usually is and so she could work during about 35% of the time on her twelve nights. While she was on the mountain, Cerro Tololo had its largest snow fall of the last four years. In spite of all this, she did manage to get 85 photographs of globular clusters.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Alice Kato and son Ziggy left on July 19th for Poland to visit relatives and see Torun and other astronomical shrines.

Dr. Garrison has been spending the past month at the Yerkes Observatory.

Dr. Fernie attended a meeting of variable star people in Los Alamos, N.M. on July 7 and 8, and presented papers on "The Existence of Stable Stars in the Cepheid Instability Strip" and "A Search for Pulsation in R CrB".

Dr. Gregory attended an International Symposium on "Waves and Resonances in Plasmas" at St. John's, Newfoundland, and presented a paper on "Satellite Observations of Magnetospheric Radio Emission".

Dr. and Mrs. MacRae are spending a few weeks at the cottage at Georgian Bay.

Dr. Hogg leaves today for Geneva to arrange the funeral of her cousin, Dr. Beatrice Whiteside, who died there on Monday after a long illness. Dr. Whiteside, a zoologist, has lived in Switzerland for many years and has been in poor health in recent years. Dr. Hogg often visited her and helped with her affairs.

Dr. Garrison spent three weeks in Maine with his family on a salt-water farm. He leaves next week-end for the Yerkes Observatory where he will spend the month of August working with Dr. W. W. Morgan on classification projects.

SEMINARS

In July, only Dr. Sher, as announced. For August none is scheduled at present.

PAPERS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

- D.S. Hall and D.W. Marks, "An Explanation for the Migrating Distortion in RS Canum Venaticorum".
- J. Percy, "The Low-Luminosity Boundary of the δ Cephei Instability Strip".
- N. Walborn, "Some Spectroscopic Observations of the Early Decline of Nova Serpentis 1970".
- N. Walborn, "An Interstellar Calcium Feature in the Region of Eta Carinae".
- C. Coutts, "Concerning Variable 14 in the Globular Cluster M5"
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MISCELLANEOUS

Born

To Wayne and Ursula Dewsbury, at Richmond Hill, on July 6th, a son, Jeffrey Wayne.

GASA Picnic

The annual Graduate Students picnic, attended also by members of the staff, was held in beautiful weather on July 9 at the very fine Bruce's Mills Conservation area near Gormley.

Oral

Ted Bednarek successfully completed his General Ph.D. Oral Examination.