



EDITORIAL

Neology

Having failed, in previous efforts, to stem the tide of neology, I believe it is time to begin to compile a dictionary of obsolescent words so that the young of the 21st century will be able to understand the archaic writings of authors like Maugham and Eddington, and the recorded speeches of such as Churchill and Kennedy.

Not all new words are really new - in fact the most viable ones are just old words with new meanings. Take the case of a neologism much loved by scientific writers at the moment: "typically". We read that "Typically, several hundred galaxies appear on only a small number of large reflector plates centered near the cluster center". (A.J. 72, p. 398, 1967). There may be some who don't know what that means. However, the "typical" young scientist knows. True, he can't find a meaning consistent with the context in a dictionary, but he just knows because he has read it so often. So the time may come when he won't know what "usually" means. Thus "usually" goes into my list of obsolescent words. Of course, someone is going to have to think up an adverb meaning "in conformity to type", but that is not my concern.

With particular reference to radio broadcasting, some other candidates for my list of obsolescent words are:

stylish	=	in
etcetera	=	and/or what have you
complete	=	wrap up
normal	=	par for the course
excuse	=	alibi
expect	=	anticipate

J.F.H.

Observing

There has been very little observing during the past few weeks - the usual November bad weather has been particularly bad this year. (As the late Mrs. J. S. Plaskett has been reported as saying, "We usually have some very unusual weather at this time of year".) However, Fred Hickok has managed to get three or four much needed spectrograms of Phi Per at critical phases, and he got two spectrograms of Gamma Cas on Nov. 18 which had been requested by Dr. Don Morton of Princeton who was flying a rocket from White Sands on Nov. 14 to observe this interesting star in the UV.

Image Tube

Stanley Jeffers and Dave Blyth have all but completed the installation of the Carnegie image tube at the Nasmyth focus of the 24-inch telescope.

Aluminizing Chambers.

The aluminizing chamber for up-to-30-inch mirrors along with its pumps and gauges has been assembled and is now under test by Gerry Longworth in the carpentry shop. It remains only to install the mirror mountings to make it ready for use.

The major weldings for adapting the new pumps to the big chamber in the dome have been done. The rest of the work awaits the spring thaw when the water supply can be turned on again.

The New Gate

Dave Earlam and Archie Ridder have recently built and installed and beautifully painted a new half-gate for the Observatory entrance at Hillview Drive. The purpose of this gate, of course, is to discourage nocturnal visitors. The first night it was up it must, in fact, have seriously discouraged one visitor, because it had a prominent bend and some light blue paint the next morning. However, the purpose of this note is to warn everyone of the need for caution in going around the gate when there is snow or ice on the road. A fair number of cars over the years have slid into the ditch at that point.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. van den Bergh was here again during the week of November 10. Mrs. van den Bergh underwent surgery in the Toronto General on the 12th, and is now nearly about to leave hospital. She will be continuing her convalescence at home before returning to Pasadena. Little Sabine also had a date with her doctors at the Sick Children's; they found her progress after her earlier spinal troubles to be spectacular. She and her father returned to Pasadena on the 17th.

Dr. Roeder was at the University of Western Ontario on November 20th to give a colloquium on "The Absorption Spectra of Quasi-Stellar Objects" and to address the London Centre of the R.A.S.C. on "The Nature of Quasi-Stellar Objects".

Dr. Percy has been at Kitt Peak since November 14th to observe β Canis Majoris stars with the 16-inch telescope. He has written that he had a pleasant meeting there with the local Toronto Alumni.

Dave Goodenough is leaving on November 29 for a 5-week observing visit to Cerro Tololo (supported by a Reinhardt award) to observe southern galactic clusters and 47 Tuc in six colours with the 16-inch and 36-inch telescopes.

The students of astronomy G1001 (Astronomical Techniques) and G1004 (Radio Astronomy) made a two-day visit to the Algonquin Radio Observatory, November 23-24, where, under the supervision of Dr. Seaquist and Dave Goodenough, they observed the stronger HII regions Tau A, Cas A, galactic sources for flux density and polarization, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn, all with the 150-foot dish at 2.8 cm.

Dr. Hogg attended a meeting of the National Lectureship Committee on Sigma Xi at Wentworth-by-the-Sea, New Hampshire, on October 19th. This is the Committee which selects speakers for the kind of tour that Dr. MacRae did last fall.

November Seminars

November Seminars were changed from those announced in DDD No. 10 as follows:

On Wed. Nov. 20 two recent astronomical films were shown at the Observatory.

On Thurs. Nov. 21 Dr. J. M. Greenberg, Leiden and Rensselaer, spoke on "Interstellar Grains" in Room 137, McLennan.

On Wed. Nov. 27 Dr. Anand is speaking on "The Equilibrium and Stability of Magnetic Stars" at the Observatory.

On Thurs. Nov. 29 Dr. Thos. Gold, Cornell, is speaking on "Pulsars" in Room 102, McLennan.

December Seminars

Dec. 4
Observatory
Countdown

Ted Bednarek, "Physics of Gaseous Nebulae".

Greg Fahlman, "Radio Emission from Pulsars".

Dec. 11
Observatory
Countdown

"The Luminosity Function of Nearby Stars".
Dr. James F. Wanner, Earlham College,
Richmond, Ind.

Dec. 18
Observatory
Countdown

Nancy Evans, "Comparison of Globular Clusters in
our Galaxy compared with those in Other Galaxies".

Course G2000: Seminars in Astrophysics

Room 137 McLennan Labs. (Thursdays at 4 p.m.)

Dec. 5 Bill Dodd, "Diffuse Interstellar Lines"

Dec. 12 Fred Hickok, "Solar Neutrino Flux".

Papers Submitted in November

S.P.S. Anand and G. G. Fahlman, "Coherent Mechanism for Pulsar Radio
Emission".

S.P.S. Anand, "Equilibrium and Stability of Magneto Polytropes".

E. R. Seaquist, "The Radio Spurs as a Single Helical Feature".

M. J. Clement, "Differential Rotation in Upper Main Sequence Stars".

H. S. Hogg, "A Study of the Variable Stars in the Globular Cluster
Messier 14. II. Periods and Light Curves of the Second
Group of twenty variables. D.D.O. Publication Vol. 2, No. 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I am much interested in the early Canadian Telescope
(DDD No. 10), but I doubt the claim that it was the third largest,
unless you take advantage of a technicality. The Bruce 24-inch
refractor of Harvard University was constructed by Alvan Clark and
Sons of Cambridgeport in 1894. It was tested in Cambridge, Mass., and
then sent to Arequipa, Peru, where it remained until 1927. Thus, while
your statement is technically correct, perhaps it gives a wrong slant on
telescope progress on this continent,

Yours truly,

Richmond Hill, Nov. 1/68.

H. S. Hogg

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Sir,

An event which appears at first glance to be extremely improbable has just occurred in our midst.

I refer to the event when R^2 became the supervisor not only of Hardenbergh (H^2) but also of Dodd (D^2). The probability that a group of three persons selected at random from a pool of 36 should include all of those characterized as "squares" is 0.00014.

I searched for an effect to explain this; the first thought that came to mind was that all cosmologists - whether practicing or embryonic - are squares! However, an optical observation of one particular embryonic cosmologist (who shall remain nameless, but who is not mentioned above) convinced me that some cosmologists certainly don't look square.

My second thought was that this could somehow be explained by Eddington's magic numbers, but this seems to be impossible.

I therefore shall content myself with presenting to you a number, 0.00014, and let you do with it whatever you wish.

Yours truly,

Toronto, Nov. 4/68

R. C. Roeder

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The Editor is grateful to Dr. Hogg for the correction regarding the status of the Gervais telescope.

Regarding Dr. Roeder's interesting letter, we venture to point out that it is only his ignorance of the principles of numerology which prevented him from finding the explanation in Eddington's magic number, 137: choosing the middle digit because of its unique position, we have the number of noughts following the decimal place in the probability; having used this digit, we subtract it from the last digit of 137 to get 4 as the last digit of the probability, and, of course, the first digit becomes the first digit of the probability. Thus 0.00014.

Ed.

Alumnus

Dr. Serge Demers (1967) and his pretty Chilean wife, Carmen, were in Toronto early last week en route to Montreal for a visit to Serge's folks. They will be attending the Texas meeting of the A.A.S. en route back to Cerro Tololo where Serge is on staff.

Degrees.

The following degrees were awarded to astronomy students at the Convocation of November 21st.

Ph.D.'s: Lorne Braun, Doug Hube, Inge Sackmann,.

M.Sc.'s: Bob Chambers, Bill Dodd, Mark Naylor, Linda Poole
Hugh Ross.

R.A.S.C. and R.C.I. Meeting

The Royal Canadian Institute and the Toronto Centre of the R.A.S.C. are holding a joint meeting on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 8:15 p.m. in Convocation Hall, when Mr. Malcolm M. Thomson of the Dominion Observatory will speak on "The Measurement of Time".

Special Planetarium Show

A special showing has been arranged at the McLaughlin Planetarium for Monday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. This has been designed for elementary classes in astronomy, but staff and graduate students are invited to attend.