

Mr. John W. Kerns, 401 Beech Ave., Takoma Park, Md., has recently rejoined us after a long absence.

We are sorry to lose Mr. Raymond DeFrees of Lynnhaven, Va., who has just resigned. He helped many of us learn the constellations and many other star facts.

STAR DUST IS VERY PLEASED with its new dress this month, designed by Mr. Clarence Herreshoff. We hope it will arouse other talents in our midst.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY has been cooperating with our Association by publishing notice of the meetings in "Informal Education in Washington," and now keeps us advised of recent acquisitions of books on astronomy, meteorology, and celestial navigation:

- Introductory Astronomy: a guide for night watchers. J. B. Sidgwick. A not-too-technical guide to the stars, couched in terms familiar to the layman.
- A Guide to the Constellations; new 3d edition. Samuel G. Barton and William H. Barton, Jr.
- Galaxies. Earlow Shapley. Another in the Harvard Books on Astronomy series. Technical in scope but clearly presented.
- Meteorology, Theoretical and Applied. E. Wendell Hewson and R. W. Longley. Basic meteorological theory, with applications, for the advanced student.
- Meteorology Workbook with Problems. Peter E. Kraght. Illustrations, cloud form photos, weather maps.
- Weather Analysis and Forecasting. Sverre Pettersen. A textbook on synoptic meteorology.
- American Practical Navigator; an epitome of navigation and nautical astronomy. Nathaniel Bowditch.
- Navigation and Nautical Astronomy. Benjamin Dutton. U. S. Naval Institute.

---Publications Committee

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WHAT IS THE SUN will be the subject of a lecture by Lieut. Com. Donald H. Menzel, USNR, on December 2d, 8 p.m. at the National Museum. The lecture will be illustrated with motion pictures and lantern slides. Lieutenant Commander Menzel, now stationed in Washington, is on leave from Harvard College Observatory. He has made many notable contributions to astrophysics and is the author of numerous technical and popular writings including a forthcoming book on "The Sun" in the series of Harvard Books on Astronomy. Among the interesting developments with which he has been associated is the instrument known as the "coronagraph" now in operation at Climax, Colo., with which the solar corona can be observed without waiting for an eclipse.

---Edgar W. Woolard

IN HIS TALK ON STARLIGHT, Dr. Seeger applied astronomy to physics as the word "astrophysics" implies. He gave the history of the concept of light as held by the ancients, the discovery of its speed, more accurate measurements, etc., to the theory of curved space.

Galileo used a water clock and two lanterns on opposite hilltops to determine the velocity of light, but the experiment was unsuccessful. The next contribution of real value was Roemer's work in 1676 whereby he calculated the speed of light as 130,000 miles per second. In 1729 Bradley measured the speed of light by aberration. His conclusion was 160,000 miles per second.

These important steps were followed in 1849 by Foucault's device for measuring the speed of light, and Michelson and Morley's observation in 1886. Finally, Einstein maintained that light from stars is bent, as proven by technical observation of solar eclipses.

---Dorothy F. Harris

TELESCOPE LENS KIT FOR \$5. Mr. Masters has sent for complete information regarding kits including three eyepieces and a lens varying in size up to five inches and in price, to \$5. Focal length of the 5" is 200 inches. Can be mounted in makeshift tubes. Satisfactory for observing the more prominent objects in the sky, according to Mr. Masters. Major Lyons said blanks for mirrors can be obtained if anyone wants to grind one.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held in May in accordance with the amendment to the by-laws passed last month.

AT THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY MEETING, Dr. Woolard reviewed the history of pre-telescope astronomy. Much accurate work was done in ancient times without the aid of the telescope, Tycho Brahe's computations being a great help to Newton in the 17th century when the telescope began to be recognized as an instrument of value in explaining the heavens.

No definite time or inventor of the telescope is known. Spectacle makers of Holland were familiar with the combinations of simple lenses. Simon Marius is credited with being the first to view the sky, but Galileo constructed the first crude telescope and actually observed celestial bodies, making the now classical discovery of Jupiter's first four satellites.

Dr. Woolard outlined the advantages of telescopes, types and how they differ, auxiliary attachments, and limitations still confronting us.

---Dorothy F. Harris

The next meeting will be December 7th, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Dr. Woolard.

TWO VISITORS HAVE BECOME MEMBERS, Miss Joyce Kummell, 6244 Eastern Ave. N.E., daughter of Mr. Kummell who has been a member for some time, and Miss Vera Cooper, 517 Tuckerman St., N. W.