

Junior

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Glebe 8276
- Lee Spencer Richardson, 2501 South Hayes St., Arlington,
Va. Glebe 5929
- Charles Richard Roelofs, 513 N. Garfield Street, Arling-
ton, Va. Chestnut 1513
- Edward Roy Stover, 4312 South 9th Street, Arlington, Va.
Chestnut 2817

Mr. DeVany is part owner of the "Mississippi Valley Observatory" at Davenport, Iowa. It comprises two domes and considerable equipment including a 115-foot sun telescope. He brought with him a Schmidt camera and 4-inch refractor with motor drive.

Carl Werntz and his telescope were the subject of an article in the Junior Section of the Washington Star March 3rd.

THE JAMES ARTHUR LECTURE given annually at the National Museum, was well attended March 5th when Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt, head curator of biology, U. S. National Museum, chose as his topic, "The Sun and the Harvest of the Sea." Rather remotely connected with astronomy, the illustrations with running comment showed the cycle of sunlight on plankton, the staple food of small fish which are consumed by larger varieties, in turn eaten by the big fellows, and so on. His figures of the amount of fish we take from the sea every year were impressive, and even more so was the fact that the greater the number of large fish caught, the greater the supply of food left and therefore the more fish there will be in the ocean. Wonder what the conservationists think of that? Little was said about the solar constant and we assume sun spots have nothing to do with the life of plankton.

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DR. CHARLES P. SAYLOR of the Chemistry Division, Bureau of Standards, will give a lecture of popular appeal on atomic energy April 6th, 8 p.m. at the National Museum. Dr. Saylor's work has been indirectly connected with the Manhattan District - atomic bomb.

CONVENTION OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS. At the last convention, in Washington, Detroit extended an invitation to meet there the following year. The war interfered, however, and plans were postponed.

It was a hopeful sign of return to normalcy, therefore, when Mrs. Margaret Back, Secretary of the Detroit Astronomical Society, inquired recently how our group felt about holding a convention there Thursday and Friday, June 20-21. Facilities of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, and the dormitories and dining hall of the Cranbrook Boys School in beautiful Bloomfield Hills have been offered for the convention. That solves hotel and restaurant problems. Formal announcement of the convention is expected later. Mark the date on your calendar!

AS OTHERS SEE US. "WHY don't I get any observations, or at least any appreciable number, from the NCA on fireballs? I do from similar societies elsewhere, so why not from you? And never a real set of observations on a night of a meteor shower. Don't any of you do any astronomical work besides attending lectures, etc.?"
---Charles P. Olivier, Flower Observatory.

CAPT. RALPH S. WENTWORTH is the new superintendent of Naval Observatory, and Capt. Guy W. Clark is deputy superintendent, having filled that position since last September.

"WHAT WE LEARN FROM STELLAR SPECTRA" afforded Dr. Allen J. Hynek an excellent topic for his lecture at the last meeting. Some 90 persons heard how the astronomer is dependent upon light as his sole means of obtaining information about the heavenly bodies.

The instrument used by Dr. Hynek is a 69-inch reflector at Perkins Observatory. The story of how a man with an income of \$1800 a year contrived to assemble this instrument was most impressive. The disc was cast by the Bureau of Standards.

As we know, a prism is used to bend light and spread it with the violet light at the short end and red at the other. Light passes through the telescope, then the prism and is photographed on an especially rapid plate. The image is so tiny it requires a special instrument similar to a microscope, to enable the eye to see anything of consequence. This is all that material things can do. From here the ingenuity of man takes over as he attempts to decipher secrets of the unknown. Instruments have given fingerprints of the heavens for the astronomer and physicist to read.

From their spectra, we learn many things about the stars--their monotonous sameness, how hot they are, the fact that they are traveling toward or away from us at varying speeds, some being suspected of moving away at the almost unbelievable rate of 12,000 miles per second, and that some are double stars so close together no known instrument will magnify enough to separate them.

In concluding, the lecturer predicted that astronomy would speedily catch up the twenty years it is behind other sciences. ---Lloyd North

COMMITTEES

Purchase of the astronomical slides and projector was not recommended by Mr. King's committee.

Nominating Committee: Dr. Woolard, Mr. King, Miss Scholz. Give them your suggestions for nominees.

To investigate another hall for meetings: Mr. Lyons, Mrs. Moncure, Miss Sterns.

Miss Geraldine Windham added to Publicity Committee.

TWO OF OUR MEMBERS attended the American Astronomical Society convention at New York in February. Dr. Woolard reported a large attendance sprinkled with ex-service buttons and a few uniforms, indicating postwar reconversion to peacetime pursuits. Mr. Lyons noted a lack of sufficient time for presentation of all the papers accumulated since the last convention. Some had to be confined to ten minutes.

OUR 5-INCH TELESCOPE is back at the Observatory, having taken time out for inspection. Thanks to Mr. King, ropes are on the pulleys and as soon as the rollers are oiled, the roof should slide open easily. Our gratitude to Mr. DeVany for his work on the eye-pieces.

For permission to get the key, apply to Mr. Lyons (Woodley 3284) who, if approval is granted, will add your name to the list at the desk in the Administration Building. After lengthy discussion, this seems to be the best way of assuring proper care of the instrument.

Those now on the list:

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| Benjamin King | Leo W. Scott |
| Lloyd North | Helen Harris |
| Wm. P. Harris | Robert McLellan, Sr. |
| Morgan Cilley | Geo. L. Skirm |
| Arthur S. DeVany | U. S. Lyons |

NEW MEMBERS

Full

- Arthur S. DeVany, 3518 Reservoir Road, N.W.
- Abraham Robinson, 7019 Georgia Ave. N.W. Georgia 4322