

one of the public parks, either once or periodically. The Publicity Committee will be glad to undertake to plan either of these activities if the interested members will signify a willingness to participate. If you would like to take part in, or assist with the planning of either of these activities, please contact the chairman of the Publicity Committee at once.

This Committee is attempting to bring notices of the meetings to the attention of groups of persons who may be especially interested in hearing our speakers. Monthly notices are posted on the bulletin boards of the Naval Observatory and the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. They also appear in the monthly publication of the Washington Public Library. They are furnished to all the local newspapers. The Committee would welcome suggestions as to the names of other groups to whom special notices should be directed.

---Grace C. Scholz
Ordway 5552

HOBBY NOOK

NEXT TO ASTRONOMY, entomology is one of the most interesting, mysterious, and "hard to understand" among the sciences. Fabre, whose books first aroused my interest, says these creatures might well come from another planet, so strange are their ways from any other form on earth.

My little collection consists of several honey bees poised like tiny airplanes ready to take off, different types of crickets, moths, wasps, beetles. There are quite a few spiders, one millipede, some larvae, moults (cast-off skins), and two or three pupal cases, also a broken cocoon. My finest specimens are a large grasshopper, two perfect "pill rollers," three cocoons, three wasp nests, and the nest of a praying mantis. Also the moult of a larva which I fed on lettuce leaves. It cast off this skin, pupated, completed the metamorphosis in about a week, and emerged a beautiful brown moth.

---Dorothy F. Harris

STAR DUST

National Capital
Amateur Astronomers Association
Washington, D.C.

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JANUARY 15TH is the date of the next lecture, 8 p.m. at the National Museum. Mrs. Margaret Ionides Cochran will speak on "Astronomy and the Exploration of the World." She is co-author with her father, the late Stephen A. Ionides, of "Stars and Men" (also published in England with the title "One Day Telleth Another," a name suggested by Psalm XIX), a delightful, popular book that is unique in the aspect of astronomy to which it is primarily devoted. The authors have also published several papers on historical topics, including "The Zodiac," Popular Astronomy, March 1941; "Globes of Earth and Sky," Compressed Air Magazine, October 1942; and three of the monthly leaflets issued by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific: No. 136, "Astrolabes," June 1940; No. 145, "Astronomy in Ancient Greece," March 1941; No. 153, "Astronomy in Ancient Egypt," November 1941. Mrs. Cochran is now engaged in research in climatology and its applications to military problems for the Office of the Quartermaster General.

---Edgar W. Woolard

THE STORY OF THE STARS as revealed by the spectrum has an even greater fascination for those who heard Dr. Keenan's informative lecture on the temperatures of the stars at the December meeting. First he explained temperature--when applied to the stars, the so-called effective temperature is not the actual temperature in the sense in which we understand it, but is an index to the temperature conditions, which is derived through the medium of Stefan's Law, from observation of the total radiant energy which a body sends out. Dr. Keenan described the instruments used in determining star temperatures and the results obtained for individual stars.

AN EXCURSION to exhibits of astronomical interest at the National Museum is planned for January 23d. Dr. Woolard will conduct the tour through the collection of meteorites, timepieces, geological exhibits, and Babylonian and Egyptian sections. Meet inside the Constitution Avenue entrance at 2:30.

CELESTIAL NAVIGATION study, under the direction of Captain Lee, was carried on at the home of Mrs. Davis, November 29th. A date for the next meeting will be announced later.

BABYLONIAN CUNEIFORM recording astronomical events centuries before the Christian era was the phase of history brought out by Dr. Woolard at the meeting on December 13th. Those present are looking forward to the next session at his home on January 10th at 7:30.

SKY AND TELESCOPE rate to NCAAA members will be \$1.75 after the first of January, instead of \$1.65 as previously announced.

SIX REPRODUCTIONS of Sky and Telescope back covers, showing comets, nebulae, and Milky Way, will be on view at the next regular meeting.

BOOKS WE ARE READING

THE STAR GAZER. Zsolt de Harsanyi. Translated by Paul Tabor. G. P. Putnam's Sons 1939. Written as a biography, adhering to facts, and as a novel, sustaining interest, "The Star Gazer" is the life story of the scientist, Galileo Galilei, from young manhood to death. It is the story of a man who lived, loved, and died but who showed little nobility in these basic activities; the story of a man who was a teacher of science, inventor, astronomer, and writer, but above all, a man whose mind furnished much of the illumination at the dawn of science.

This is a narrative of a man who was confronted by a philosophy which held that the heavens--the work of the hand of God--were perfect and immutable, that man created by God had been placed on the earth, the center of the universe. The powers supporting this philosophy plus ill health undoubtedly curtailed his possibilities to contribute to the sum of mankind's knowledge. But his developments in mechanics and optics were fundamental. In his mind was the same conception of the universe which although greatly enlarged, we have today. His method of thinking whereby relationships in the physical world were determined experimentally, expressed mathematically, and thereafter predicted with certainty, is what we call "Science" today.

---George L. Skirm

THE MOON with Naked Eye and Field Glasses, by Calvin N. Joyner. 1936. Description of the moon; several photographs of different phases, with accompanying charts to identify its features. A very readable book to arouse interest in our satellite, and helpful in learning its geography.

REPORT OF PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

At one of the monthly meetings, several suggestions were made of activities in which members of the Association might wish to participate. One of these is a hobby show. Another is telescope observation in