

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNION OBSERVATORY

1924

Director Dr. R.T.A. Innes
(Union Astronomer)

There have been no changes in the staff. Professor E. Hertzsprung of the Leyden Observatory, who arrived here on 1923 November, has been at the Observatory throughout the year. The Franklin-Adams Star-Camera has been placed at his disposal for photographic investigations of variable stars in the southern hemisphere. The results of his work are being published in the *Bulletins* of the Astronomical Institutes of the Netherlands. Mr. W.S. Finsen has worked at the Observatory as a volunteer assistant from 1924 March, and has been mainly occupied with the reduction of transit of Mercury observations.

26-inch Refractor. - The mechanical parts of the large telescope were mounted early in the year, with the assistance of the Public Works Department. At the moment of writing the remaining portions of the telescope including the objective are on their way to South Africa, and it is expected that the telescope will very shortly be in commission. The condition of the object-glass has been the occasion of much anxiety, and the question of the final acceptance of the lens from the makers depends upon tests which will be made here.

Yale Observatory Expedition to South Africa. - Dr. F. Schlesinger of the Yale Observatory has decided to erect a 26-inch photographic refractor in South Africa for the determination of parallaxes of southern stars. He is expected to arrive at Johannesburg about the end of 1925 January.

Occultations of Stars. - All occultations of stars by the Moon observed anywhere during the year 1923 have been completely reduced here. Altogether 338 observations were reduced. A discussion of the results of the observations will appear in a forthcoming circular.

Time-Service. - Throughout 1924 Greenwich Sidereal Time, obtained by means of the rhythmic time-signals sent from Bordeaux, has been used at the Observatory. The sidereal clocks are kept, for convenience of use, 1h 52m 18s in advance of time received from Bordeaux, and the G.S.T. of an observation is obtained by deducting this amount from the clock time and then applying corrections indicated by the Bordeaux signals.

Union Observatory Circulars. During the year Circulars Nos. 59, 60, and 61 have been issued. With these were included 32 maps of portions of the southern sky. Circular 62 is now in the press.

From June 26 until the end of the year the Union Astronomer was absent on leave in England, the Chief Assistant Mr. H.E. Wood, M.Sc. being in charge.