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Botzabelo
Museum
Basutoland
3rd Dec 1925

H. H. Spencer Cowie, F.R.A.S.
Royal Observatory
Cape of Good Hope.

Dear Sir,

Having observed in the last number of the Journal of the Astronomical Society that members are invited to send papers for publication I write to ask whether in your opinion a paper on various types of Sun Dial which give the Civil Time without calculation would be suitable. I am prepared to write such a paper. Of course I should expect you to publish it in the Journal after perusing it you found the treatment of the subject adequate. All I wish to know is whether you consider the subject a suitable one, and one for which you could find place.

I would make the paper as short as possible, & would omit the more elementary considerations first for the benefit of readers having but a slender knowledge of

Mathematics. An elementary knowledge of the constructions of the Cruciform type of dial would be assumed.

Do you know any English monograph on Sun-dials, to which readers might be referred? I know only the Encycl. Britan. article and some chapters in books on Surveying. I have the excellent book in French by J. Bigourdan which first came out in shorter in the 'Annuaire' publié par le Bureau des Longitudes' 1918-22. I must remark that the only criticism which it contains was pointed out by me to the author in 1921. The figures of the vertical dial on p. 58 is wrong by drawing. I suppose it was found necessary to make a new block when the articles were published in book form. Do you consider that a general treatment would be too lengthy? I could send you a few sketches and photographs of a Chinese Time Ball construction designed by myself which contains what is probably a novel feature.

I am yours faithfully,

P. J. Hartnup M.A., M.D.