

chromosphere put forward by Dr. S. Chandrasekhar. The last five chapters deal with the unsolved problems of the corona and discuss various aspects of the subject, namely, the forms of the corona, the intensity and polarisation of the coronal light, its spectrum and the origin of the entire phenomenon.

The attractive way in which the whole subject has been handled, the beautiful and well-chosen illustrations and the excellence of the account given of the more important recent developments, make the

reading of this book a pleasant and profitable undertaking. Its appeal should extend far beyond the circle of specialists interested in astro-physics. Indeed, the reviewer has no hesitation in recommending the volume as one that should be read by every aspiring young physicist who wishes to imbibe the spirit of scientific research and discovery. The book brings out clearly the dominating rôle which physics plays in present-day astronomy.

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## ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

**Planets during October 1937.**—Mercury will be visible as a morning star during the early part of the month and will reach superior conjunction with the Sun on October 29. Venus will continue to be a bright object in the eastern sky before sunrise. On October 11, the planet will be very close to Neptune, the distance being only about three-tenths of a degree; the phenomenon can be seen with the aid of a small telescope.

Mars and Jupiter will be prominent objects in the sky immediately after sunset. The two planets will be approaching each other and on October 29, the angular distance between the two will be only one and a half degrees. Jupiter will attain quadrature with the Sun on October 12.

Saturn who is in opposition to the Sun on September 25, will be moving westwards in the sky and can be seen practically throughout the night. The ring ellipse is again getting edgewise, the major axis being  $43''.8$  and the minor axis  $2''.4$ . Uranus will be about  $2^\circ$  west of the star  $\sigma$  Arietis (magnitude 5.5) and will cross the meridian an hour after midnight.

Comets (1937 *f*) which was discovered by Finsler in July, increased in brightness and has since become visible to the naked eye. At the beginning of September, it was in the

constellation Bootes and moving southwards. Comet Whipple (1937 *b*) is gradually decreasing in brightness but is still within the reach of moderate instruments. Another new comet (the seventh for the year 1937) is reported to have been discovered on August 4 by Dr. Hubble at Mount Wilson (U.S.A.). At the time of discovery, the comet was faint, of magnitude 13,—and situated in the constellation Aquarius. It is moving in a southwesterly direction; from the computed ephemeris, it is found that the comet is approaching the earth, so that an increase in brightness may be expected.

Nova Herculis and the three novae discovered last year are still bright enough to be observed with small telescopes. Nova Herculis is slowly declining, its magnitude on September 8 was 8.6. With powerful instruments, the star has been found to be a close double, the separation being about  $0''.6$  in March 1937. The distance between the components appears to be gradually increasing; the measures obtained during the last two years are discussed by Kuiper in a paper in the *Astrophysical Journal*, July 1937. No appreciable change seems to have happened in the brightness of Nova Lacertæ since June. On September 8, its magnitude was 10.7 while that of Tamm's first nova in Aquila has definitely declined to 11.5.

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