

## ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC 265

the few eclipsing binaries thus far determined. The investigation furnishes important information regarding the densities of the O-type stars.

J. A. PEARCE.

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THREE PECULIAR SPECTRA  
(Abstract)

The three stars, *v Sagittarii*, H. D. 50820, H. D. 45910, have peculiar composite variable spectra, the two complete sets of lines corresponding to types B3 and A2 being shown to proceed from the single stars. The three spectra are somewhat similar in character, show analogies to novae and form an interesting problem in astrophysics. The enormous mass of 260 times the Sun ascribed to *v Sagittarii* by Ludendorff is shown to be illusory.

J. S. PLASKETT.

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NOTES ON THREE SPECTROSCOPIC BINARIES  
(Abstract)

The orbits of the stars H. R. 2962, H. R. 5472 and Boss 1275 are given. The first and last are based on both component spectra. The velocity of the system of the other is changing.

W. E. HARPER.

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RETIREMENT OF DR. TUCKER FROM ACTIVE SERVICE

In accordance with the terms of the Pension System prevailing in the University of California and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Richard Hawley Tucker, astronomer in the Lick Observatory since 1893, retired from active service on July 1, 1926. Dr. Tucker was born at Wiscasset, Maine, on October 29, 1859. His father, bearing the same name, and his grandfather, were captains of sailing ships making voyages to distant parts of the world.

Mr. Tucker was graduated from Lehigh University in 1879, with the degree of Civil Engineer. In recognition of his con-

tributions to astronomical science, his university in 1922 conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. While in college he had the advantage of studying astronomy under Prof. C. E. Doolittle.

Immediately following his graduation Mr. Tucker became an assistant on the staff of the Dudley Observatory, Albany, of which Lewis Boss was director. During the years 1879-83 he assisted in making the observations and calculations for the well known Albany A. G. Catalogue of star positions, embracing the zone bounded by declinations  $-0^{\circ}10'$  and  $+4^{\circ}10'$ .

During the next ten years, 1883-93, Mr. Tucker was a member of the staff of the Argentine National Observatory at Cordoba, under the successive directors Drs. Gould and Thome, where he engaged heavily in the preparation of the Cordoba Durchmusterung, covering the two zones  $-22^{\circ}$  to  $-32^{\circ}$  and  $-32^{\circ}$  to  $-42^{\circ}$ .

Appointed astronomer in the Lick Observatory as of date July 1, 1893, he served continuously at Mt. Hamilton during thirty-three years, save for the period 1908-11, when, on leave of absence, he was astronomer in charge of the Southern Observatory of the Carnegie Institution, at San Luis, Argentina, inaugurating and carrying through to completion the program of meridian observations planned by Director Lewis Boss for the latter's proposed Great General Catalogue of star positions.

Dr. Tucker's chief work at the Lick Observatory consisted in the determination of the accurate positions of selected brighter stars in the northern two-thirds of the sky, by fundamental methods. In addition, he observed many special lists of stars: the basic reference stars for two of Professor Schlesinger's photographic zone catalogues; Piazzini's Southern Stars; the reference stars for the minor planet *Eros* at the oppositions of 1900-01 and 1930-31, the latter comprising his last piece of meridian observing; and several shorter lists.

The results of Dr. Tucker's major undertakings at Mt. Hamilton fill four large quarto volumes of the Publications of

## ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC 267

the Lick Observatory: IV in 1900, VI in 1903, X in 1907, and XV in 1925. Many papers bearing his name have appeared in the various astronomical journals. His observations of the past year on the *Eros* comparison stars are now in preparation for publication.

Dr. Tucker's intense interest in his subject, his energy and his systematic habits enabled him to produce results of high accuracy, and in numbers truly remarkable.

In 1914 Mr. Tucker married Miss Ruth Standen, for several years the Secretary of the Lick Observatory. There are two daughters. The family has removed to Palo Alto, California, eighteen miles northwesterly from San Jose. The best wishes of their colleagues and friends at the Lick Observatory attend them.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

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HONORS FOR DR. W. S. ADAMS

On June 4, Dr. Walter S. Adams, Director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Columbia University, New York, and on June 14, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred by Pomona College, Claremont, California.

The Paris Academy of Sciences has recently awarded the Janssen Medal to Dr. Adams. The delivery of the Medal has been delegated to American Ambassador Herrick.