

Whitaker, was made from observations, with 8-inch and 6-inch reflectors, during 1954.

A considerable number of 'new' details are shown, and it is apparent that the length of the valley is greater than is usually assumed.

The Valley lies at an angle of about 60° to the apparent 'meridional' alignment of the surrounding features, but a number of craterchains, those near Steinheil for example, lie parallel to the valley. Thus there is a *real* alignment of some features in this region. This appears to be of great importance when considering the origin of the features within this region.

Close examination of the complex features of the Valley shows that it is not of meteoric origin as has been suggested. A study of the relationship of the Valley with the craters (or walled plains) along its banks suggests that north of Mallet it was formed by some form of subsidence between lines of strength formed by the walls of the bordering formations. South of Mallet it consists of shallow craters and a broad craterchain, of five craters, whose association as part of the Valley is unmistakable.

A number of short clefts, aligned in the direction of the Valley, are also charted.

OBITUARY

William B. Housman

Many members heard with regret of the recent death of William B. Housman, of Seaton Observatory, Workington, Cumberland. He had been in poor health during the last six years or so, having been bedridden for four months as early as 1950. In spite of failing health he had doggedly persevered with his astronomical observations whenever possible.

Elected a member of the Association on 25th May 1951, he was also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and for thirty-three years gave devoted and enthusiastic support to the advancement of astronomy. His chief interest was the study of Aurorae, and for no less than twenty-three industrious years (1928-1951) he was Director of the Aurora and Zodiacal Light Section of the Association. Besides many Reports to the *Journal* he produced three comprehensive *Memoirs* for the B.A.A. on his Section's activities. His last Section Report appeared in December 1951, shortly after he had retired from his office as Director owing to deteriorating health. He persisted, however, with his observations and reported when fit.

William Housman will be remembered best by those who knew him and collaborated with him in the thirties and early forties, when he produced his very best work; but, many other members who knew him, as I did, only in his declining years will have appreciated the encouragement of his kindly personal interest, the ever-present willingness to share his wide experience, and the drive of duty which, even when physical indisposition intervened, would still direct his patient eyes in search of the elusive Northern Dawn. Observers who did not have the privilege of contacting his generous personality can benefit from his loving labours as made available in his *Memoirs* and reports.

We remember his persistent devotion to the Association's work and progress, and trust that his example will inspire keen young members to intensify the research on Aurora and the Zodiacal Light which W. B. Housman carried on so faithfully for nearly a quarter century.—D. A. MACLEAN