

One cannot but feel that a revision far more thorough than has been undertaken would have been the wisest course. As it is, the text tends to be dated; for example there is a reference to the "recent" discovery of Proxima Centauri, which was in fact made in 1915. There are minor factual errors and inconsistencies which should have been picked up; Lacaille's visit to the Cape was from 1751 to 1753, not 1750 to 1754 as stated: if the genitive of Tucana is Tucanae, why is the globular cluster several times called "47 Toucani"?

When the book was first written southern astronomy had made few striking contributions, and it was appropriate that a book under this title should contain nearly as much about the northern stars as the southern, and as many illustrations from that hemisphere as from this. Now things have changed, and we have every right to ask for new wine in the old bottles.

The chapter entitled "Star Catalogues" can be cited as an example. Here we find Lacaille's and Brisbane's Catalogues mentioned, but no mention of the Henry Draper Catalogue, or the astrographic and zone catalogues from Cordoba, the Cape, and even Sydney and Melbourne, which any astronomer would prefer. It would be tedious to continue in this vein. What one hopes is that Mr. Harley Wood will throw off the antique mould in which he has allowed himself to be confined, and to write us a modern little book based on the recent researches undertaken in the South.

D.S.E.

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NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORIES

Measures of Bright Southern Stars on UBV System

by

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A series of photoelectric observations of bright stars has been in progress with the 18-inch Reflector at the Cape Observatory since the beginning of 1958. The principal object is to obtain a definitive connection between the Johnson-Morgan UBV standard system and that for southern stars.

The filters in use for this programme are: Schott UG 2 (1mm) for the ultraviolet; BG 12 (1mm) + GG 13 (4mm) for the blue, and Omag 302 for the yellow measures. The photomultiplier is an E.I.L. Type 6094A. The mirrors are aluminised and the natural colour system is close to the UBV standard system, especially for B and V.