

It is more than a year since the establishment of a National Observing Programme. Since that time there have been encouraging results, a few of which are summarized below. To date, four of the eleven observing disciplines are active in varying degrees and observations are being made and reports sent to the National Co-ordinators.

According to records at hand, the Planetary Section, with Mr. Gaherty as National Co-ordinator, has issued four Bulletins and a number of observing instructions and report forms. At last count, fifteen of the sixteen Centres have appointed representatives for Planetary work and several Centres have started to engage in the programmes outlined by Mr. Gaherty. Among the immediate products of the section are Jovian Central Meridian transits which have been transmitted regularly to the Jupiter Sections of the A.L.P.O. and the B.A.A.

Lunar work, under Mr. Thompson as National Co-ordinator, has nine Centres reporting interest and several projects now under way. In addition to three Bulletins issued, Mr. Thompson has prepared a series of helpful instructions covering such topics as sketching technique, use of selenographic colongitude, what to observe, and several others. An early result of the Lunar programme has been a catalogue of 95 lunar domes, confirmed and/or suspected, which has come about as a result of co-operation between Montreal and Toronto observers. Mr. Thompson has requested that observers in other Centres aid in confirming these observations.

The Comet and Nova Section has also been quite active: three Bulletins and four announcements have been issued; observations of comets Seki-Lines and Humason have been received by the National Co-ordinator Mr. Low and an excellent Nova search programme is functioning, largely due to the Montreal Centre, which has been active in this work for some time. Ten Centres have indicated an interest in the work of this Section.

The Aurora Section, with Earl Milton as National Co-ordinator, has issued its first Bulletin and it is anticipated that this field will flourish due to the interest which already exists in Edmonton and Montreal.

The first fruits of the National Programme were evident at the General Assembly in Edmonton this past May when three Sections - Lunar, Planetary and Comet and Nova, had displays showing what had been accomplished up to that time. This, we hope, will set the trend for the displays at future General Assemblies.

We cannot do justice here to the amount of effort expended during this first year by the Co-ordinators in preparing programmes, bulletins and reports, and in keeping up with correspondence. We wish to express our appreciation of their efforts on behalf of the observers.

3 Medici Court,
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