

Mr. C. H. Robinson, Sr., of 3820 17th Place N.E. His collection comprises minerals in their free state, crystals, ore, etc. Many he searched for himself and thinks that Montana and other western states offer the best fields for mineralogists. Some pieces were exchanged with other rockhounds as far away as South Africa.

His prize is crystallized turquoise found in southern Virginia, which is exceedingly rare in that form. The fluorescent specimens show their hidden beauty under ultra-violet light. Of special interest to astronomers are a metallic meteorite weighing about a pound, and a small, stony one.

The inherent beauty of lustrous hues in many minerals is enhanced by cutting and polishing and Mr. Robinson turns out fine pieces of semi-precious jewelry in his lapidary shop.

THE ARTHUR LECTURE will be given by Dr. C. G. Abbott on "Solar Variation and the Weather," in the auditorium of the New National Museum on February 29th at 8 p.m.

WE ARE PLEASED TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS for membership from:

- Dr. Isadore Levin, 5814 Third Street N.W.
- Dr. Gerald J. Cox, 3803 S Street N. W.
- Mr. Raleigh Gilchrist, 4939 30th Place N.W.
- Mr. Floyd L. Barloga, 2028 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia.

Formal action will be taken at our next regular business meeting. The Membership Committee, in accordance with the suggestion at the January meeting, has extended the courtesies of the Association to Lt. Joseph L. Richey of the New York amateur astronomers.

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Mabel Sterns, Editor  
2517 K Street N.W.  
District 9422

STAR DUST

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Amateur Astronomers Association  
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- Secretary, Miss Dorothy F. Harris, 1621 T Street N.W.  
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HARVARD OBSERVATORY AND SCIENCE SERVICE have extended an invitation to members of the NCAAA to attend a meeting of astronomers to be held at Science Service, 1719 N Street N.W. at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 4th. Our own meeting on that evening will therefore be omitted in order that we may take advantage of this exceptional opportunity. Because of the small size of the meeting room at Science Service, the invitation is limited to members of the Association.

A number of astronomers now resident in or near Washington will be present and in addition, Dr. and Mrs. Shapley, Dr. Bart J. Bok of Cambridge, and Dr. Walter Roberts of Colorado are expected to attend. Dr. Shapley will report on a revision of the distances of globular star clusters; Dr. Roberts, on solar phenomena; and Dr. Bok, on astronomical progress in Europe.

---Edgar W. Woolard

CORRECTION. In the February bulletin, page 1, paragraph 3, the first sentence should read: "Another experiment of great interest consisted of weighing large crystals in different positions relative to the

earth, to determine whether gravitation varies with direction in the crystal relative to the crystalline axes, as nearly all other physical properties of crystals do."

DR. PAUL R. HEYL, WORLD RENOWNED for his extensive work on gravitation, spoke at the February meeting. His subject dealt with the development of astronomy from ancient times, through the various ages, and proceeding to the present day. He explained how the pattern of this science compared with the development of other sciences.

In very early times, the immature mind needed concrete means for explaining the mysterious and interesting scientific principles, so angels and dryads were employed to perform all the celestial phenomena, as the movements of the sun, moon, stars, etc. For lack of any other explanation, this theory continued for hundreds of years. Then it was thought that the celestial objects moved in liquids or media. So, as the mind advanced, various theories were advanced to explain the intriguing scientific principles.

Within recent times, gravitation has been considered the theoretical explanation of the unknown factors. At present, the human mind has reached the limit, for a while, in its study and discovery of gravitation and electricity which affect all matter. Gravitation can not be controlled by any known method; electricity can be harnessed and used, but it is still an unknown factor in the development of matter. So we are at a lull in science until some better theory is advanced and explained, to delve deeper into scientific phenomena and the present principles become obsolete.

---Blanche Windham  
4885 Edgemoor Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland

THE CELESTIAL NAVIGATION group met at the home of Mrs. Davis on February 14th despite the weather. The next meeting will be with Mr. Herreshoff, 3726 Connecticut Avenue, on March 13th at 8 p.m.

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY grows more popular with each session under the instruction of Dr. Woolard. The group on February 21st learned something of Greek astronomy based on Ptolemy's "Almagest". Dr. Woolard has, in his library, this historic work in Greek and also translations in French and German. Those present look forward to the next meeting at the home of Dr. Woolard on March 20th. They (including the writer) are urged to arrive at 7:30 if possible.

"RELATIVITY FOR THE NAVIGATOR" is the subject on which Glen H. Draper, Astronomer, U.S. Naval Observatory, will speak before the Society of Philosophical Inquiry, March 14th, 5 to 6 p.m. in room 43 of the New National Museum. The meeting is open to the public, and a period for questions, comments, and criticisms will follow the speaker's paper.

#### BOOKS WE ARE READING

ASTRONOMY FOR THE MILLIONS, by G. Van den Bergh. E. P. Dillon & Co. New York. The public seems to regard this book with favor, perhaps because of its easy, informational style. Originally published in Amsterdam in 1935, it was translated from the Dutch and published in England as "The Universe in Space and Time."

It was written originally some three years before Jean's "Universe Around Us," but contains much of the same facts of physics and in some instances, more comprehensively explained. The illustrations are not clear nor entirely satisfactory when compared with recent reproductions. This book is reported out of print but is available at the public library.

---E. V. Smith, 325 5th Street S. E.

#### HOBBY NOOK

"I have collected rocks and minerals for the past fifty years or more, and can find something of interest in almost any part of this good old U.S.A.," says