

desert country. That is the conclusion I have reached, and I hope shortly to be able to test it by series of photographs which I want to obtain with a view to seeing whether any changes in them occur. If these photographs can be obtained, they should add much to our knowledge of these wonderful rays.

---

**Appreciation of the late Mr. R. J. Pocock, B.A.,  
B.Sc., F.R.A.S.**

Mr. and Mrs. Pocock visited the Kodaikanal Observatory in May and June of this year. Mr. Pocock having obtained a well-earned holiday from his work at the Nizamiah Observatory. While here Mr. Pocock impressed me by his remarkable keenness for astronomical research and by a most generous spirit of co-operation. He undertook an arduous series of measures of Sun and arc spectra to assist me in an investigation on the displacement of the cyanogen bands in the solar spectrum, and in addition he carried out an investigation on the distribution of sunspots east and west of the Sun's meridian. The appearance of Nova Aquila during his stay here naturally excited his keen interest, and it is due largely to his energy and resourcefulness in assisting me to construct and arrange the necessary apparatus that we were able to secure a very valuable series of spectrum photographs.

Mr. Pocock was a man of generous and sympathetic nature, and we all at the Observatory deplore his untimely death.

J. EVERSHED.

---

**Professor H. H. Turner, at the Royal Astronomical  
Society, London (taken from "The Observatory").**

I am very glad to have this opportunity of saying a few words about Mr. Pocock, the announcement of whose unexpected death was seen by some of us in the papers recently. I have received no further particulars as to the cause of his death beyond the fact that it was due to pneumonia,

which possibly followed upon an attack of influenza. A career of much promise has thus ended prematurely. I will briefly recall to you the circumstances of his life. He has been engaged during the past few years at Hyderabad upon the observation of the half zone of the Astrographic Catalogue which was originally assigned in 1889 to Chile, Santiago. This zone has had a tragic history. No progress was made with the observation for some time until at length Ristenpart became the Director of the Observatory. It was then thought to be desirable to assign half the zone to Hyderabad, and Mr. Chatwood was sent out to Hyderabad to put it in order. He built the Observatory and made a start with the work, but then nothing more was done. After a time he resigned, and perhaps some excuse may be found for him on the ground of ill-health, for shortly afterwards he died. Meanwhile, the work at Chile had again been interrupted by the tragic death of Ristenpart.

Mr. Pocock went out to Hyderabad direct from Oxford, with a view to completing the Hyderabad portion of the zone. He struggled ably with the difficulties which he encountered, and succeeded in getting one zone published. The Astronomer Royal, at a recent meeting of the Society, referred in a kind manner to the manful way in which he has struggled with his difficulties. Delay was occasional through several batches of plates being lost on the way to India through enemy action: then a fire at the printers delayed a publication of the first zone. He was in sight at the time of his death of the final completion of the work which he was sent out to do, in spite of difficulties which were not contemplated when he was sent out.

We have four brief papers standing in Mr. Pocock's name to-day. They show, however, that he was working up to the last moment. One is on sunspots, in which he arrives at conclusions which agree mainly with those arrived at by Mrs. Maunder. Another deals with new stars, another with the relation between mean parallax and magnitude, in which he analyses the wonderful list of parallaxes of Adams, and arrives at the conclusions that the formula of Kepteyne is confirmed within certain limits due to the fact that the material used is selected material. Then there is another short paper on stars of large proper motion in the Hyderabad zone.

I can give the Society no information on what will happen to the rest of the Hyderabad zones, but I hope that the Hyderabad Government will see the work through.

### Ordinary Meeting, 26th November 1918.

The minutes of the proceedings of an ordinary monthly meeting of the members of the Society held on Tuesday, the 26th November 1918, at the Imperial Secretariat (Treasury) Buildings. The President, Dr. T. Royds, D.Sc., F.R.A.S., etc., was in the Chair.

The minutes of the annual general meeting of the Society held on the 29th October 1918 were read and confirmed.

The presents received since the date of the last meeting were read and confirmed and a vote of thanks was accorded to the donors.

The President made an announcement regarding the use of the members of the Society's telescope and said that a notice on the lines of this announcement would be published in the Monthly Notices of the Society.

Mr. P. C. Bose, Scientific Secretary of the Society, next read a short history of the Nova Aquilæ.

Mr. Weston read and explained a paper by Mr. Thos. Deighton, B.Sc., on another illustration of Einstein's theory, also a paper by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S.

---

## A Short History of Nova Aquilæ.

By P. C. BOSE.

### I

The position of the constellation Aquila is unique, situated as it is between R.A. 18h. and R.A. 20h. 30m. and Decl. 15° N and 12°-30' S of the Celestial Sphere. Among a host of comparatively less conspicuous stars Altair commands the attention of the inhabitants of the Globe whether they be situated N or S or E or W. Actually what happened nobody can say with certainty, but so far as we have been able to ascertain, on the night of the 8th June, a new star flared out in the constellation Aquila, and it was seen from all parts of the Globe.