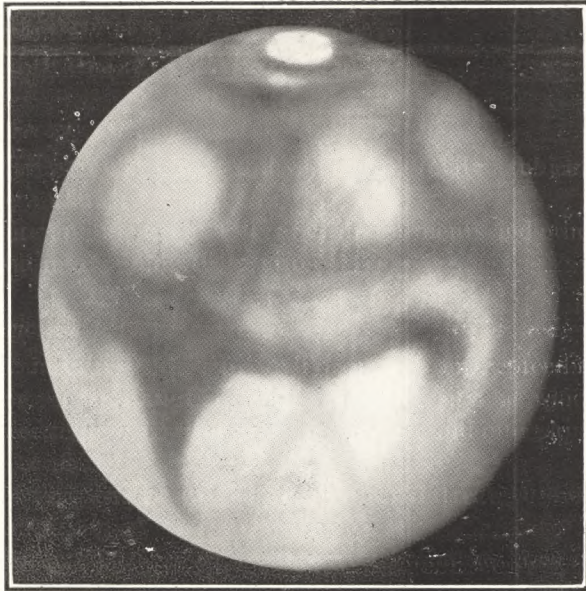


The
Royal Astronomical Society
of Canada



MARS

From a drawing by Scriven Bolton, of Leeds, England.

This planet will be a very prominent object in the southern
sky during the summer of 1924

MANY people are interested in Astronomy, and show great curiosity on the subject, as members of this Society are well aware. Hardly a day passes but we are asked questions about some unusual appearance of the sky, such as the advent of an unusually bright "star", which is probably one of the planets, or some other easily explained phenomenon.

This is a very natural curiosity, and is the beginning of a most interesting study if those who are merely curious could be persuaded to follow it up; but because of the fear that the subject may be too deep for them many intelligent people pass by an excellent opportunity for broadening their outlook through an acquaintance with the Universe about them.

Astronomy, even in its simpler aspects, is really a fascinating study, and its record of discoveries reads like a romance. Anyone, with very slight effort, may become at least an Amateur Astronomer, and people who are interested are cordially invited to apply for membership in this Society.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS

It is astonishing that so many people pass their whole lives without taking any particular notice of the beautiful world around them—and still less do they think of the worlds which are above and around us in infinite space.

Has the sky at night seemed to you nothing but a mysterious black vault, into which you would rather not "penetrate"? To many people the Universe is a fearsome thing, but the science of astronomy shows us that we need not be afraid of anything in the far reaches of space, and the more knowledge we gain the less we fear the future and the "unknown."

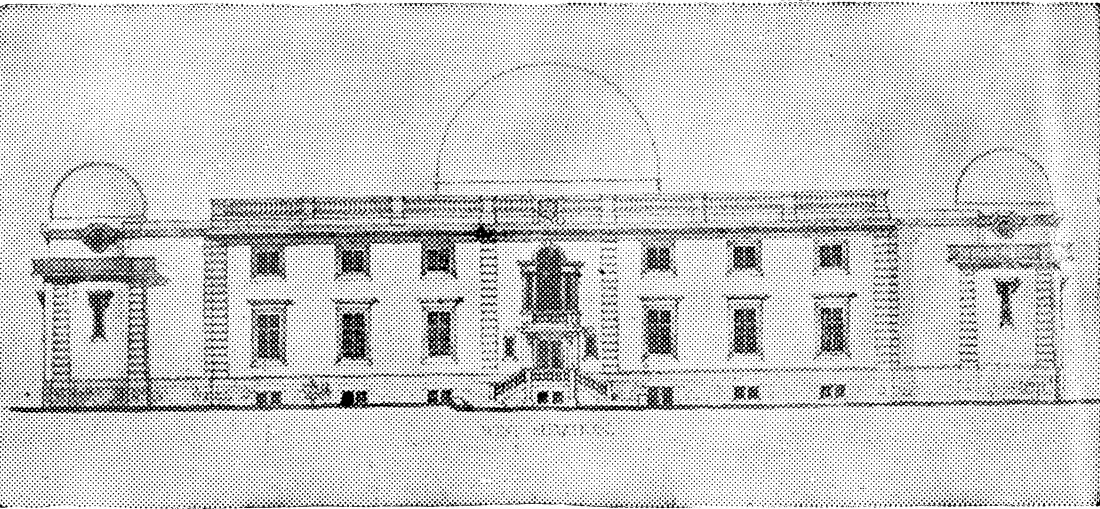
It is easy to understand why savages at the approach of an eclipse of the sun were terrified at the sight of their great God "being eaten by a dragon." The beating of drums, incantations, and shouts, had the effect, to their minds, of scaring away the evil spirit, and as the full sunlight returned there were great rejoicings.

Ignorance of the great facts of the Universe has been dispelled through the advance of science, and now when anything wonderful is taking place in the sky men and women go about their business as usual—which is much to be regretted. The savages had at least one advantage over us—they saw more than we do. Even to-day in the South Sea islands the natives seem to have learned by observation more about astronomy than the average city man,

and they navigate by the stars, finding their knowledge of great value to them on moonless nights. Yet men have lost their way and their lives in the Canadian woods, as well as on the battlefield, when the most elementary knowledge of the heavens would have guided them.

Perhaps most of these remarks do not apply to you who are reading this Invitation, but if you feel a lack of information on this subject, remember that for some strange reason the average man and woman knows very little about Astronomy.

In Winter and Summer the sky is full of "wonders which never cease," and if you are interested perhaps you will accept our invitation on the next page, at the same time obtaining from the public library or a book store one or two books on Astronomy. You will thus enter a new world of interesting ventures, and find it helpful in your outlook upon life.



What Toronto Needs—Architect's drawing of facade of proposed Observatory to be erected by the University of Toronto, when funds permit, in the ten-acre park donated for the purpose by the City Council. The park is on the east side of Bathurst Street, midway between St. Clair and Eglinton Avenues.

OUR INVITATION

The Royal Astronomical Society was incorporated in 1890 under the name of the Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto, and its present name was assumed, by Royal Permission, in 1903.

It has a membership of 550, mostly amateurs.

List of Officers:

Honorary President: G. Howard Ferguson, B.A., K.C.,
Minister of Education for Ontario.

President: R. M. Stewart, M.A., Ottawa.

1st Vice-President: William Bruce, J.P., Hamilton.

2nd Vice-President: A. F. Hunter, M.A., Toronto.

General Secretary: F. T. Stanford, Toronto.

General Treasurer: H. W. Barker, Toronto.

Recorder: H. F. Balmer, M.A.

The objects of the Society are as follows:

1. To study Astronomy, Astrophysics and related subjects and to diffuse a knowledge of them.
2. To acquire and maintain a library, instruments and other property useful in attaining these aims.

Advantages of Membership:

Fortnightly meetings are held in Toronto from September to May in the Physics Building of the University, at which papers are presented, observations are reported and interesting discussions take place.

Meetings of the Society are held also at Montreal, Ottawa, London, Winnipeg and Victoria (B.C.).

The Society publishes a well-illustrated monthly *Journal* and an annual *Observer's Handbook* which are free to members.

How to become a Member:

Ask any member to propose your name, or send a request with annual fee of \$2 to the General Secretary, 198 College St., Toronto.