

department. His numerous contributions to the spectroscopy of the fixed stars, nebulae and comets are well-known to those take an interest in the development of this new and fast advancing branch of astronomy. His name will for ever remain honourably connected with the early part of the history of astrophysics.

Dr. Copeland's brief but remarkable activity as the editor of the astronomical periodical Copernicus, in conjunction with his friend Dr. J. L. E. Dreyer, must not be omitted here. During the short time of its career the journal was patronized by many eminent astronomers who contributed to its pages.

Four solar eclipse expeditions were arranged and conducted by him; in 1887 to Central-Russia and in 1896 to Vadsö in Norway, both of which were unsuccessful, while the Indian and Spanish eclipses of 1898 and 1900 yielded valuable photographs of the corona and of the spectrum of the chromosphere.

In 1889, after Lord Crawford's presentation of his astronomical instruments to the British Government, Dr. Copeland was appointed Astronomer Royal for Scotland and Professor of Astronomy in the University of Edinburgh. In this capacity his great work was the planning of the new Royal Observatory on the Blackford Hill. In the design of this great modern institution for astronomical research he had ample opportunities of employing the manifold resources of his wide experience as a practical astronomer and his quite remarkable technical ingenuity, to the greatest advantage to astronomical science.

As a teacher of astronomy Dr. Copeland's career was markedly successful. Perhaps the remembrance of the difficulties he must have frequently experienced in his own autodidactic education made him specially susceptible of similar difficulties on the part of his pupils, difficulties which he always endeavoured to avoid or to overcome by his admirably lucid explanations. His was a mind endowed with an extraordinary logical clearness, and hence with a remarkable power of communicating knowledge to others. The receptive faculty of his brain was quite stupendous. Besides being an all-round scientific scholar, he was also an accomplished linguist and a connoisseur of European literature, of profound knowledge and refined taste.

A severe attack of influenza in 1901 marked the beginning of a long and most painful illness from which he did not recover.

In Ralph Copeland astronomical science has lost one of her most faithful servants, while his many personal friends mourn over the departure of one whose profound knowledge, genial mind and great kindness of heart they had reason to admire and to appreciate.

Edinburgh, Royal Observatory, November 1905.

*J. Halm.*

### Literarische Anzeigen.

**J. Bauschinger.** Die Bahnbestimmung der Himmelskörper. Leipzig, W. Engelmann, 1906. Preis 34 M., geb. 37 M.

Das vorliegende Werk verfolgt im großen und ganzen dieselben Ziele, wie das seit längerer Zeit vergriffene Oppolzersche Lehrbuch, geht aber noch insofern über dieses hinaus, als auch die Bahnbestimmung der Meteore, der Satelliten und der Doppelsterne mit behandelt ist. Die vortreffliche, klare Darstellungsweise und die weise Beschränkung auf das für die praktische Bahnbestimmung absolut Notwendige, werden nicht verfehlen, dem Buche bald allgemeinen Eingang zu verschaffen. Die 1901 von demselben Verfasser herausgegebenen Tafeln zur theoretischen Astronomie (vgl. Anzeige in Nr. 3763) bilden eine notwendige Ergänzung des Werkes.

**C. Stechert.** Zeit- und Breitenbestimmungen durch die Methoden gleicher Zenitdistanzen. (Aus dem Archiv der Deutschen Seewarte. 28. Jahrgang, 1905).

Die Abhandlung ist zwar in erster Reihe für Forschungsreisende bestimmt, kann aber auch den Astronomen zur praktischen Anwendung und für Vorlesungszwecke **empfohlen werden.**

**Anzeige.** Die Herausgabe des »Astronomischen Jahresberichts« ist nach dem Tode des Begründers, Professor W. Wislicenus, mir übertragen worden. Ich bitte um gütige Zusendung von Separatabzügen, neuen Publikationen und dergl. unter der Adresse: Berlin-Tempelhof, Schönburgstraße 2.

*A. Berberich.*

**Personalnotizen.** Professor *W. J. Hussey*, bisher Astronom am Lick Observatory, ist Professor der Astronomie an der Michigan-Universität und Direktor des Detroit Observatory, Ann Arbor geworden. — Zum Nachfolger Copelands als Professor der Astronomie an der Universität in Edinburg und Astronomer Royal for Scotland ist Herr *Frank Watson Dyson*, bisher Chief Assistant der Sternwarte in Greenwich, ernannt worden.

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