

MERCURY AND VENUS SECTIONJ. HEDLEY ROBINSON, *Director*

MERCURY AND VENUS SECTION MEETING AT IPSWICH

1975 APRIL 26

The Section was warmly welcomed by Mr R. M. Cheesman, Chairman of the Orwell Astronomical Society, at Orwell Park, where opportunity was given to view the excellent 250 mm refractor which the Society has repaired and hopes to use for observation of Venus in particular.

The Director took the chair and papers were presented as follows: "The History of Orwell Park Mansion and Telescope" by R. M. Cheesman; "The First Observation of the Ashen Light on Venus" by R. M. Baum (this was read by the Director in Mr Baum's unavoidable absence); "Circulation in the Atmosphere of Venus" by C. Radley; "Finding Mercury" by R. W. Middleton; "Red-Blue Values of Venus Phases" by C. J. R. Lord; film of the transit of Mercury in 1970 by J. McBain of Bulawayo, which was brought from Rhodesia by Mr A. R. Hutchings specially for this meeting.

In the evening at the Friends' Meeting House in Ipswich, this film was again shown by Mr Hutchings, and the Director delivered a lecture on "The Amateur Astronomer". This described the differences between the professional and amateur astronomers and their work, and then showed how mutual co-operation yields valuable results and concluded with the statement that there is still room for amateur observers in the search for truth.

The only disappointing feature of the meeting was the lack of support by Section members, of whom only a few attended.

We are extremely grateful to the Orwell Astronomical Society for their hospitality and most helpful assistance in arranging the meeting.