

88 Lorne Ave.,
St. Catharines, Ont
Friday May 10, 1943

Mr. Jas. W. S. Low,
411 Buxton Ave.,
St. Lambert, P.Q.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are negative search reports for April, 1943. This was a fairly good observing month, although none of the nights were exceptionally clear.

Our Centre held a star night for members on April 20th and 14 attended. Our program included observations of Comet Alcock and Nova Hercules. Those who ventured an estimate of the nova agreed on 6^m.9. Next night (April 21) my estimate was 6^m.8. On the 27th of April it had faded to 6^m.95 then brightened on the 28th to 6^m.9. These estimates of magnitudes are based on comparison with out of focus image of 7^m.0 star next west from the nova. This is a very handy arrangement! Do you think these estimates are a little too fine?

I am awaiting reports of Comet 1943 b & Nova Hercules 1943 from several members. In fact I have delayed this letter hoping I would be able to include other observations besides my own. In a few pictures I attempted of the Comet a good imagination is required to see the pitiful smudges! The comet was spotted 19 times during April, but magnitude estimates are not reliable. Mine for April 4th - first sighting is about 8^m.0. It seems to be fainter than predicted.

Sincerely,
Hugh W. A. Maclean,
Niagara Falls Centre.

P.S. I expect to be in Toronto next Friday night & hope to meet you there.