

PLANETARY SECTION

**GREETINGS** fellow planetary observers! Since the last bulletin was issued, winter set in and I was expecting a corresponding drop in the number of observations received. However, this is not the case! Evidently many of you are using anti-freeze for blood, as we have been getting a good number of mid-winter observations.

Only three Centres have not as yet become involved in our program. Recently, I received letters reporting revivals or births of observing programs in St. John's and London. This is most encouraging!

Remember ... your scientifically recorded observations are needed; refer to Bulletin No. 9 for procedures.

**MERCURY and VENUS:** These planets are very close to the sun during the first part of 1970. We will be requiring observations of Venus, though, as soon as possible.

**JUPITER:** We cannot stress too strongly the value of accurate timings of the phenomena of Jupiter's satellites. Our professional colleagues have requested these. The surface features on Jupiter are always changing and thus should be kept under constant scrutiny. Remember that all of us are involved in the discovery that the South Equatorial Belt appears to vary in intensity in connection with the orbital position of Callisto. More observations are needed desperately .. please!

**SATURN:** We have received a good number of observations of Saturn with magnitude estimates of the satellites - this is good, as some of them appear to be variable. There has been an outbreak of white spots on Saturn (see January issue of "Sky and Telescope"). Your intensity estimates of the bands, belts and rings of Saturn are needed, especially in this time of turbulence in Saturn's atmosphere.

**URANUS:** Could some of our observers with 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " scopes (and larger) begin a program on Uranus?

**MARS:** I have just completed an analysis of observations of Mars for 1969. A map has been produced from your observations, which is of reasonably good calibre. It is hoped to have the report on Mars printed in the JOURNAL or the new national "newsletter".

A Happy New Year with clear skies to you all!

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