A TEXT BOOK
OF
ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY
Total eclipse of the Sun: Aegean Sea, 1936
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OF
ELEMENTARY
ASTRONOMY

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PREFACE

A WIDER OUTLOOK in school science has been growing for some years, but although Astronomy is a subject often recommended it is seldom taught. The objections to Astronomy are, presumably, that it does not provide suitable experimental work and that time cannot be spared in an already overcrowded time table. With the rapid increase of General Science it is to be hoped that this section will eventually find its place, and this book more than covers the syllabus suggested by the Science Masters' Association.

The book may also have an appeal outside the schools, as some may wish for a course of instruction more formal than the general reading already well catered for in the extensive literature of the subject. It will form a sequel to my former book, A Guide to the Sky, which is an observational introduction for young people. Astronomy may be approached from a mathematical or experimental standpoint. The former has already been ably done by P. F. Burns in his First Steps in Astronomy; an experimental and historical approach is made here.

Simple experimental work which forms a part of the main argument appears in its place in the text, as do some suggested demonstrations. At the ends of the chapters there will be found other exercises and out-door work of which the importance cannot be overstressed. The questions at the end of the book are graded, A being preliminary questions intended to direct the thoughts before reading the chapter, B questions on the text, and C of a problem nature.

Figs. 21, 67, 68, 71, 72, 76, 78, 79, 81, 87 and 90 are to be found in The Stars in their Courses by Sir James Jeans; Fig. 89 is in the same author's The Universe Around Us; Figs. 61 and 64 are reproduced from Light by A. E. E. McKenzie. For permission to use these the author is grateful to the Cambridge University Press, and to the owners of the copyrights to whom ascription is made on the figures themselves.

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1 The Teaching of General Science, Part II, 1938.
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