

jecting from Capricorn, serving 'of many a necessary conclusion in equacions of things.'

After describing the several parts of the instrument, Chaucer proceeds to enumerate the problems which may be solved by its use. He begins his list in these words, his grammar therein reminding one of William of Wykham's well-known 'Manners maketh man : ' ' Here beginneth,' he says, 'the conclusions of thine Astrolabie.' It will not be necessary to give an account of them all. The headings of a few of them may suffice, as : 'To know any time of the day by light of the sunne, and any time of the night by the sterres fixe, and eke to know by night or by day the degrees of the sign that ascendeth on the east horizon which is cleped commonly 'ascendent.' 'To know the very equation of the degrees of the sunne, if it so be that it fall between two almicanteras.' 'To know the spring of the dawning and the end of the evening, the which beene cleaped the two crepuscules.' 'To know with what degree of the Zodiake any sterre fix in thine Astrolabie ariseth upon the east orizont, although the orizont be in another signe.' 'To know the declination of any degree in the Zodiake, fro the equinoctiall cercle.' 'To know which day is like to other in length throughout the yeere.' 'To prove the latitude of any place in a region by the preffe of the height of the pole artike in that same place.' 'To know the signet for the arising of the sunne, this is to sayne, the party of the orizont in which the sunne ariseth.' 'To know sothly the longitude of the moone, or any planet that hath no latitude, from the time of the Ecliptike line.' 'To know whether any planet be direct or retrograde,' &c.

And after enumerating some thirty-eight or forty such conclusions or problems, and showing how each of them may be solved, Chaucer assures his son that these are only a portion of the conclusions that may be worked out by aid of the astrolabe, for 'trust well, he says, 'that all the conclusions that may have been founden, or possibly might be found, in so noble an instrument as is the astrolabye, ben unknown perfittly to any mortall man in this region as I suppose.' We may be sure that he had been long an adept in the use of the instrument, perhaps from the days of his youth, when at college. He narrates some of his experience with astrolabes that he had met with : he had discovered, he says, 'there be some conclusions that will not in all thyngs perfourme her behests;' 'her,' of course, is 'their,' and