

1925. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dear Colonel Dreyer

1.

Yesterday you asked me in conversation to write a few remarks about Astronomy in the University.

1. Undergraduate Courses. There is no doubt of the good educational value of a direct & continuous course <sup>in Astronomy</sup> to undergraduates, and Astronomy has the great advantage that although its accurate results are actually arrived at only after arduous calculations, these same results are explainable in ordinary language, & the method (instrumental) ~~to~~ are easily understood by the ordinary 1<sup>st</sup> year mind. It would be possible even in the 1<sup>st</sup> year to construct a course (elementary & descriptive) which would be of comparable difficulty with 1<sup>st</sup> year Chemistry, Physics or Biology, which would be in many ways ~~and~~ more educative & cultural than these standard things. The larger Universities in the States have recognized and are recognizing this, and Elementary Astronomy has got its place amongst the other sciences in the Calendar.

The present 2<sup>nd</sup> Year course is an attempt to show that valuable results can be obtained by means of the elements of Spherical Trigonometry. The course on Navigation suggested at the meeting the other afternoon could easily be handled by our students of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> years, a study of some of the branches of Astronomy (including Astrophysics) would <sup>provide</sup> beautiful examples both of the mathematical processes and the physical conceptions which our good students in Mathematics & Physics meet during their time; and in this way the study of Astronomy would read on both the subjects of Mathematics & Physics for the good of both.

2. Graduate Courses.

For a well trained student in Mathematics & Physics these