

Canadian Makes Great Discovery Exhaustive Study of Solar System

Dr. Plaskett Finds Every Star and Other Heavenly Body Is Rotating Around a Centre Inconceivably Distant.

VICTORIA, B.C.—Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of the astrophysical observatory near Victoria, one of the world's most eminent astronomers, has added to the reputation of Canadian science and to his own fame by an astounding discovery concerning the movement of the world, the sun and all the heavenly bodies visible to mankind. For this achievement the Royal Astronomical Society has awarded to him its coveted gold medal, which never before has come to Canada.

Dr. Plaskett's newest discovery has been translated into unscientific language to mean that every star within the vision of the most powerful telescope and every other body in billions of miles beyond them, is rotating about a centre inconceivably distant from this earth.

The motions of the speck of matter known as our world thus are discovered to be far more complicated than has usually been supposed, although the theory now proven by Dr. Plaskett has been suggested as possible before. First, it is explained, the world rotates on its own axis in a motion which gives us night and day. This motion is at the rate of 23,000 miles in twenty-four hours. The world goes around the sun once a year, providing the change in seasons, this tour being conducted at the rate of 18½ miles a second. Thirdly, the earth moves with the sun in another circle, this being independent apparently of the great universal movement which Dr. Plaskett has been investigating. Fourthly, as he explains, the earth, the sun, the moon and every tiny point of light visible to astronomers is travelling in a circle of almost unimaginable diameter. Its centre appears to be in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius, and is so distant that light from there would take 47,000 years to reach the earth.

At Great Speed.

Travelling at inconceivable speed through space, all the heavenly bodies within men's ken are going over dis-

stances which it is difficult for the human mind to comprehend. Dr. Plaskett estimates that it requires 300,000 years for the visible universe to complete its great journey around its distant centre. The movement is at the rate of about 300 kilometres a second, or some 200 miles. This is more than 2,000 times as fast as airplanes travelled in the Schneider Cup races recently when they broke all records for human travel.

Dr. Plaskett's revolutionary discovery was made as a result of his constant efforts to check over the past work of astronomy, with the aid of his huge telescope, one of the largest

in the world. Actually, it was supposed "errors" in photographs of the stars gave the clue to the theory which he has since established. These "errors" were puzzling phenomena in spectroscopic records of starlight.

The "K Component."

For twenty years astronomers, including Dr. Plaskett, have regarded these phenomena as due to infinitely small errors in their instruments and more latterly it was thought they might have something to do with Professor Albert Einstein's discoveries concerning the movement of light. They were known to scientists as the "K component."

Dr. Plaskett, with patient labor, investigated this and finally satisfied himself that it was not due to mechanical errors but recorded a movement on the part of the stars. His exhaustive observations have proved that this movement does occur and that it embraces all recorded and known space and incalculable miles of space beyond men's vision.