
Practical Work in Elementary Astronomy. *M. G. J. Minnaert.* Springer-Verlag, New York, Inc., New York, 1969. xxiii+247 p. \$9.20.

Professor Minnaert has drawn upon some 25 years of experience with his students at Utrecht in the compilation of these exercises and any person involved in teaching laboratory courses in elementary astronomy will surely welcome this book's publication. The experiments cover nearly all areas of astronomy, including instruments, motions of bodies in the solar system, planetary and satellite surfaces, the sun, spectroscopy of the sun and stars, stellar photometry, stellar motions, clusters, and interstellar matter. The only serious omission seems to be work on extragalactic systems of stars.

There are 74 exercises. Each one is clear and succinct, with an introduction, statement of the problem, procedure, references, and list of apparatus necessary for the exercise. Many exercises are further divided into subsections for work at the telescope and/or work in the laboratory. Anyone who has tried to predict sky-cover conditions for any given night in Ohio will see the particular merit of this type of division. This book will probably be most useful in college astronomy courses, because many, though not all, of the exercises require the student to be familiar with some trigonometry and elementary calculus and physics.

TERRY P. ROARK