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## THE ECLIPSE OF AZ CAS

Photoelectric observations of the present year eclipse of the long period eclipsing binary AZ Cas ( $P \sim 3400$  days;  $m_{pg} = 9.9$ ) are carried out with the 40 cm refractor of the Teramo Observatory. Unfavorable weather conditions together with the occurrence of night lower culmination of the star prevented the observation of the beginning of the eclipse which has been entered between April 14 and May 18, 1966: according to Ashbrook (ApJ Suppl. 15) the beginning of the partial phase was expected to occur April 24, whereas Richter (MVS 331) foresaw the phenomenon for March 24.

At present the star is  $0^m.30$  weaker (V magnitudes) than at the maximum of light and appears to be very red (provisional value of  $B - V: +2^m.20$ ). The end of the eclipse is to be expected to occur next August. Accurate photometric and spectrographic observations of the partial phase, whose length would range from 5 to 10 days, should be of fundamental importance for the derivation of the light elements and for the study of the phenomena related to the filtering of the light of the blue component through the outer envelopes of the red giant.

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