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COMMISSION No. 27 - WORKING GROUP ON FLARE STARS

A successful meeting of the Working Group was held during the IAU General Assembly in Montreal. Dr. C. Jordan delivered an informal presentation on interpretation of UV spectra and Dr. B. Bopp gave some opinions on possible future directions for optical observation. Lively discussions took place and it came to light that a number of groups (at Armagh, Catania and Sacramento Peak) are independently involved in UV spectroscopy of flare stars in their "quiescent" states. Indeed subsequent discussions with the Boulder group (J. Linsky et al.) showed that they and the Armagh group have contiguous programmes between September 6th and 11th. People interested in cooperative ground-based observations are invited to contact P. B. Byrne (Armagh Observatory) or J. Linsky (J.I.L.A., Colorado)

A broader definition of the working group's activities is necessary, these being no longer confined to the study of flaring. Rather there is now interest in applying all available diagnostic tools to the study of chromospheric activity in the latest type dwarfs. With this in mind it was decided to discontinue the international co-operative programme of optical monitoring of a selected group of flare stars on a regular year-to-year basis. In its place we would urge observers to search for activity in stars not hitherto shown to be active, to expand our knowledge

of its occurrence in as wide a range of spectral types as possible. The importance of standardizing observations to the UBV or other commonly used photometric system was stressed, as was the need for two-channel data where possible. The latter type of observation is of particular importance in searching for out-of-flare "flickering" and intermediate timescale variations.

With the resignation of the previous chairman, Professor Mavridis, it was decided to form an organizing committee for the future. For details of the composition of this committee members are referred to coming issues of I.B.V.S. Future plans include a possible workshop meeting on flare stars to be held during September 1980. Those interested in joining the group should contact Dr. B.W. Bopp (Univ. of Toledo), Dr. P.B. Byrne (Armagh Observatory), Dr. M. Rodono (Catania Observatory) or Dr. S. P. Worden (Sacramento Peak Obs.)

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