

PREFACE

Colloquia and symposia have almost become a tradition among the variable-star astronomers; those held more or less regularly at Bamberg and Budapest have become well known. For a change, this time the organizing committee of Commission 27 decided to hold an I.A.U. symposium in Moscow and to adopt as a special topic the relation between variable stars and the evolution of stars and stellar systems.

This symposium, No. 67 in the I.A.U. series, was prepared by two committees, a scientific one chaired by B. V. Kukarkin, and a local one with V. A. Ambartsumian as chairman, and G. S. Khromov as executive secretary. It was held in Moscow at the Physical and Astronomical Institutes of the Lomonosov University from July 29 to August 4, 1974.

The symposium was opened with three short welcoming speeches by V. A. Ambartsumian, J. M. Ternov (vice-rector of Moscow University), and B. V. Kukarkin. All three stressed the importance of the study of variable stars in connection with the evolution of stars and stellar systems, the role of the Russian astronomers in these studies, and the necessity of international cooperation.

The papers and discussions were given in Russian and English, the translations being done in an excellent manner by a staff of young Moscow astronomers and secretaries. Their help is very much appreciated. The organization was in the hands of Dr Khromov, who quietly and unobtrusively kept the conference running smoothly and solved with a never-failing efficiency all the small problems which are unavoidable at any meeting of this kind. It is unnecessary to say how many thanks are due to him.

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