

no indications, judging from the reception of the Annapolis time signals registered at Greenwich, that conditions for radio transmission were in any way abnormal.

As stated in NATURE of October 23 last, there were, at the time of the magnetic storm, four large spots on the sun's disc, none of which, however, from its telescopic appearance suggested any unusual activity. From a discussion of the occurrence of a number of magnetic storms, Mr. E. W. Maunder found that the average position of spots, which were apparently related in some way to the disturbances, was about 14° west or 1 d. 2 h. past the sun's central meridian at the time of their commencement (*Monthly Notices, R.A.S.*, 64, 206). This would indicate, in the present instance, the group of spots with central meridian passage on October 13.7.

Mr. A. A. Buss states that this group showed pronounced spectroscopic activity, and particularly so on October 13, when observations at 13 h. 30 m. indicated that very brilliant eruptive prominences were being shot out in different directions from the immediate vicinity of the chief spot. Considerable line of sight motions in the spectrum line $H\alpha$ were also observed by Mr. Buss in connexion with the spot of central meridian passage, October 16.7. Another fact, probably merely a coincidence, but not to be entirely overlooked, is that the time interval between the preliminary and great magnetic disturbances is roughly equivalent to the difference in longitude between the leading and following spots of the third group with central meridian passage, October 11.2.

The recent magnetic storm is the fourth to be recorded at Greenwich during the present year. That of January 26-27 was described at the time as being the largest magnetic disturbance for five years. The progress of the sun's periodic activity may be readily gauged from the following table giving mean daily areas of sunspots, corrected for foreshortening and expressed in millionths of the sun's visible hemisphere. The year 1917 was the maximum for the last cycle.

Year.	Area.	Year.	Area.
1917	1537	1922	252
1918	1118	1923	55
1919	1052	1924	276
1920	618	1925	829
1921	420	1926	still increasing.

During the last eighteen months there have been 19 unusually large spots which have been recorded naked-eye spots in our astronomical columns. Two of these have coincided with two of the four magnetic storms. Three of the remaining large spots have coincided with moderate or active magnetic disturbances. Coincident with the few days near the central meridian passage of the remaining 14 spots, the magnets have shown slight or no disturbance at all. It is in connexion with the anomalies met with in the attempt to correlate magnetic storms with particular solar disturbances that the work of the Mount Wilson observers on sunspot polarities, and also that of solar spectroscopists in general, is of much importance.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—The following re-appointments have been made: Dr. C. G. Lamb, Clare College, to be reader in electrical engineering, and Mr. P. Lake, St. John's College, to be reader in geography; Mr. W. E. Johnson, King's College, to be Sidgwick lecturer in moral science, and Dr. H. Lamb, Trinity College, to be Rayleigh lecturer in mathematics.

At the recent matriculation, 1650 freshmen were matriculated.

For the sixth year in succession, Trinity College announces the offer of a Research Studentship open to graduates of other universities who propose to come to Cambridge in October next as candidates for the degree of Ph.D. The value of the studentship may be so much as 200*l.* a year if the pecuniary circumstances of the successful candidate require so large a sum. Applications must reach the Senior Tutor not later than July 1, 1927. The College also offers, as usual, Dominion and Colonial Exhibitions to students of Dominion and Colonial Universities who wish to come to Cambridge next October as candidates for the degree of B.A., M.Litt., M.Sc., or Ph.D. These exhibitions are of the titular value of 40*l.* but their actual value is such sum (if any) not exceeding the titular value as the College Council may from time to time hold to be justified by the exhibitor's financial circumstances. If the financial need of an exhibitor cannot possibly be met by payment of the full amount of his titular emolument, the Council may award him an additional payment. Candidates must apply through the principal authority of their university, and applications should reach the Senior Tutor (from whom further particulars may be obtained) by July 1, 1927.

EDINBURGH.—Dr. David Bain has been appointed lecturer in technical chemistry in succession to the late Mr. Allin Cottrell, and Mr. J. Evans Gordon lecturer in the Department of Agriculture.

LEPLAY House Educational Tours Association has organised a Christmas vacation tour to Rome, which is open to all interested in archaeological, historical, and sociological subjects. There will be a special course of lectures on ancient and modern Rome, and visits will be paid to museums, art galleries, etc., under the guidance of experts. The party will leave London on December 27, and return to London on January 11. Full particulars may be obtained from Miss Margaret Tatton, Leplay House, 65 Belgrave Road, Westminster, S.W.1.

THE "Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland University College," Leicester, offers in its prospectus for 1926-27 full preparation for the Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, and Music Degrees of the University of London. Although founded so recently as 1921, it had last year 126 (including 68 full-time) students, all preparing for degree examinations, and it is already able to point to a long list of academic honours obtained. In the session 1925-26 departments of chemistry and physics were inaugurated. During the first term of the current session a "co-ordinating course," consisting of one lecture by each lecturer in turn on biology, chemistry, classics, English, French, geography, history, mathematics, physics, is being given experimentally. Several important public lectures are announced. Hostel accommodation within the College precincts is available for women students, the fee for residence being 60*l.* per annum. The inclusive fee for tuition for any stage for a first degree in Arts or in Science is 25*l.* per annum. Such low fees are made possible by a substantial income (6000*l.*) from endowment. The College is not on the University Grants Committee's list of universities and university colleges, but it has received a grant from the City of Leicester. Should the scheme for an East Midlands University, mentioned in the article which appeared in our issue of October 16 on "English Provincial Universities," come to fruition, this college, as well as the Technical College, Leicester, would no doubt be a constituent part.