

Star-Gazing in the South

THOUGH your latter-day space traveller has greatly added to the number of people interested in worlds outside our own his interest is not always as scientific as it might be, but everywhere many people are still making their journeys into space with the help of the well-established tools of astronomy. How this is done and how others may join them is described in *Star-Gazing—Astronomy for the Amateur*, which 4YC will broadcast at 9.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 9. It describes the work of both the Astronomical Section of the Otago branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Dunedin Telescope Makers' Club.



G. G. COULING using the 12-inch reflecting telescope at the Beverly-Begg Observatory, Dunedin

Organised astronomy in Otago goes back 44 years to the formation of the Dunedin Astronomical Society, but it was 12 years later that its observatory was opened. This takes its name—Beverly-Begg—from Arthur Beverly, a well-known amateur astronomer, who bequeathed a three-inch refracting telescope to the society, and J. C. Begg, who presented it with a 12-inch reflecting telescope.

Nowadays about 400 people a year visit the observatory on the public nights which are held regularly from April to September, and this year, for example, they have seen the planet Mars (especially in June and July, when it was closest to Earth), Saturn with its rings, the Jewel Casket cluster in the Southern Cross and the densely-packed cluster of Tucanae 47. Besides this better-known work, the Society takes its part in Dominion-wide astronomical ob-

servations. Results are sent to the Carter Observatory in Wellington.

The Astronomical Section has 40 or so members, and in *Star-Gazing* listeners will hear interviews with two of these—the president, G. G. Couling, and Neil Campbell. Among other things they will describe the observatory's equipment and the work done by the section. Mr. Couling will be heard again in the part of the programme dealing with the Telescope Makers' Club, which includes also an interview with the vice-president of the Club, Arthur Doig. They describe different types of telescopes and how to build and mount them.

Star-Gazing was arranged by Keith McIntyre, an announcer at 4YA, who is also a keen amateur astronomer.



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