

ciates, have no hope that these groups will become generally used. Rather their purpose is to cause discussion and eventually to bring renewed interest in the constellations and the old myths.

"Literal-minded moderns," said Mr. Schlesinger, "sometimes fail to appreciate the significance of the naming of the constellations, and many fail to find the few good outlines of the figures in the sky. We should realize that the named areas were not originally intended to be portraits, but merely memorials to the persons, creatures, or objects for which the areas were named. The pictures were fitted to the stars much later.

"In these days when few learn and still fewer remember the classical myths, we might suggest the method of origin of the constellation names by modern analogies. For fanciful pictures in the stars, the figures of fanciful creatures might seem most appropriate, so in the Fels Planetarium during April the creations of Walt Disney, acknowledged master of whimsy, are featured.

"Madame Upanova, of the ostrich ballet, in 'Fantasia,' as well as the familiar characters in other Disney creations, are projected among the stars and found to fit as well as the ancient groups. The Sea serpent, Hydra, becomes a Fantasian Brontosaurus, looking down on a puzzled Goofy. Mickey and Minnie Mouse take the place of the Twins, Castor and Pollux. Pluto replaces Ursa Major, the Big Bear, of which the Big Dipper is a conspicuous part. Classical Cygnus, the Swan, plus a few neighboring stars, is transformed into Donald Duck, in as angry a pose as he ever displays. Even future Disney productions are not ignored; the Reluctant Dragon, as weird a creation as one could wish, replaces Ophiuchus and Serpens."

The apparatus by which the pictures

are shown in the planetarium sky was first developed at the Fels Planetarium, and later used at others. Special projectors, made by planetarium technicians, are fastened to the framework of the Zeiss projector. Each has its own control at the switchboard where the lecturer stands. One by one, the imaginary figures

are shown around the stars, gradually appearing, and then fading. Or, if desired, the entire sky may be filled with all figures at once. The old figures are not slighted, but they are shown also, in comparison with Mickey Mouse and his colleagues.

Science News Letter, April 12, 1941

RADIO—AERONAUTICS

Light on Television Tube Shows Direction of Plane

On Tube Like Those Now Used in Receivers, Pilot Can See His Compass Direction and That of Beam Station

BY SPOTS of light on the face of a tube like that used for receiving television pictures, an aviator can now see at a glance the compass direction toward which he is flying and also the direction of a radio station that he is using as a beacon.

This is possible with a new device just recognized by the U. S. Patent Office with patent 2,233,275, to Irving Wolff, of Merchantville, N. J. He assigned his rights to the Radio Corporation of America.

Present aircraft compasses show the point of the compass toward which the plane is heading. With radio direction finder the pilot can also determine the direction, with respect to the plane, of a radio station. Then some calculation is needed to tell the compass direction of the station from the plane.

In the new invention, a compass, either earth inductor or gyroscopic, and a radio direction finder are both connected to a television tube, on the face

of which are graduated marks. Inside, a beam of cathode rays, falling on the face, causes spots of light to appear, and they show both the plane's direction and that of the transmitting station.

Mr. Wolff points out that this is especially useful because, when travelling at three or four miles per minute, the pilot should get this information quickly and directly without having to look at several instruments.

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There are ten species of *armadillos*, but only one really rolls up in its shell for defense.

NEW WILDLIFE STAMPS

The 1941 series of wildlife stamps are ready for distribution. Sponsored as in past years by the Wildlife Institute, proceeds of the sale are to be used in work leading to the restoration of America's native plant and animal species. The sample strip shown here includes: muskox, box turtle, fawn and baldpate ducks.

