

DENIES SUN SPOTS CAN PREVENT SUMMER

***But They Do Interfere With
Radio, Professor H. T. Stetson
Tells Amateur Astronomers.***

The theory that the present period of sun-spot activity will cause "a year without a Summer" was characterized as "utterly absurd" by Professor H. T. Stetson of the Harvard College Observatory, who addressed the Amateur Astronomers Association last night on the subject of sun spots and their influence on the weather. That radio reception fell down appreciably during high sun-spot activity, he said, had been proved by investigations. The increased number of electrons fired from the sun during these solar storms ionized the upper atmosphere of the earth, he explained.

Harvard, said Professor Stetson, was conducting an investigation now, correlating the reports of a large number of weather stations in different parts of the world for a period of years, to see if there was an increase of precipitation during maximum sun-spot periods. The allegedly cooler weather during these periods, he explained, was not due to less heat coming from the sun, since astronomers had reason to believe the sun gave but slightly more heat at these times. The lower temperature would come from increased evaporation from the oceans, increasing cloudiness, which would keep the earth cooler by screening it from the sun's rays and would bring more rainfall.

Present averages of reports from groups of stations and the records of certain local stations conflicted, he said, and it will take further research to find if a relation between precipitation and sun spots existed. In any case, the variations in temperature were very small. He predicted that the present sun-spot period would not reach its maximum until early in 1929.