SKALNATÉ PLESO ASTRONOMICAL INSTITUTE

(Report from Solar Institute)

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1. Introduction

The Skalnaté Pleso Astronomical Institute is a comparatively small institute. It was established in 1943. At the beginning it was composed of only one building with two cupolas and one displacable roof. The offices and flats of the first workers were also in the same building. The solar section came into being only in 1960, when three sections were established: the stellar section, the solar section and the section for interplanetary matter. At that time some further flats and an administration building were obtained in Tatranská Lomnica (at the foot of Mt. Lomnický štít). At the same time the solar section amplified its effort for the completing of the corona station on Mt. Lomnický štít. This station was finished in 1962, and the first regular coronal observations began in 1964. At present there are four astronomers and six observers in the solar section.

2. Location and Situation

The Astronomical Institute Skalnaté Pleso (Rocky lake) is situated on the East slope of Mt. Lomnický štít – the second highest mountain in Czechoslovakia – in the High Tatra mountains. Coordinates: longitude 20°14'42"E, latitude 49°11'20"N, altitude 1783 m above sea level. At this level there is no forest.

The corona station is situated on the top of Mt. Lomnický štít. Coordinates: longitude 20°13'13"E, latitude 49°11'46"N, altitude 2634 m above sea level. Transport between the corona station and Tatranská Lomnica village is made by a funicular which has a midway station at Skalnaté Pleso.

The observational conditions are best early after sunrise. After 3–4 hours the conditions deteriorate owing to the increasing air turbulence. As to season of the year the best observational conditions and most of the observational days are in