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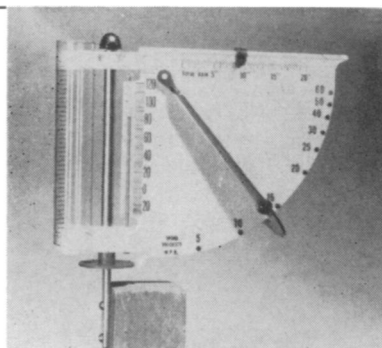
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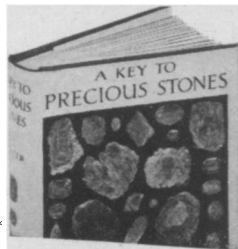
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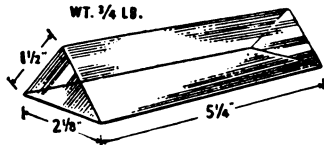
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## ASTRONOMY

### Interplanetary Particles Seen in Atmospheres

THE DUST particles of interplanetary space may be observed suspended in the atmospheres of the planets Mars and Venus.

Dr. Thomas Gehrels of Indiana University made this suggestion after studying the polarization of light from the two planets and the moon. He found the strongest polarization occurred in the ultraviolet.

This marked effect indicates that the reflected sunlight is being scattered by particles about a hundred-thousandth of an inch in diameter. Dr. Gehrels suggests that these particles may be of the same nature as the micrometeorites found in the earth's atmosphere, according to a report in *Sky and Telescope* (Nov.).

Science News Letter, November 14, 1959

## GEOLOGY

### Rocks Indicate Australia, Anarctica Were Joined

A DISCOVERY by a New Zealand research team in Antarctica has supported the theory that Australia and the ice-covered continent were once joined.

The team from Victoria University, Wellington, has found samples of dolerite rocks the same age as dolerite rocks from Tasmania.

They explained that dolerite was formed at a certain stage in the earth's development.

The leader of the team, Dr. V. B. Bull, said, "If this is the case, Australia and Antarctica were joined at the time of the formation of dolerite, with Tasmania occupying the northern end of the Ross Sea."

Dr. Bull has made a full report on the discovery to the University Council. He will report further to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Conference in Helsinki, June, 1960.

It is proposed that the 1959-60 New Zealand Antarctic Expedition make a collection of rock samples.

Science News Letter, November 14, 1959

## Questions

ASTRONOMY—How can white dwarf stars date the age of star clusters? p. 316.

CARTOGRAPHY—What value will a topographic map of the moon have? p. 319.

GEOPHYSICS—What new threat to space flight has been discovered? p. 318.

PUBLIC HEALTH—What change in estimates of nuclear fallout appear necessary as a result of some Norwegian studies? p. 324.

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