

Copy.

30th. September 1935.

Editor of the Princeton Alumni Weekly,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Sir,

In your issue of August 9, page 5, third column you report on a senior thesis by F.R. Hamilton, in which, according to your statement, the rather nutty proposal by Sir Shah Sulaiman to explain ~~gravitant~~ gravitation is reported to have been accepted by me. This is sufficiently remote from the actual situation that one of your readers has suggested that I enter suit for libel. I am too busy ~~to~~ at the moment. But I might explain to you (and perhaps through you to Mr. Hamilton) that I called attention to ~~the~~ this particular attempt to blow up the relativity theory as a light touch in an otherwise rather dreary after-dinner speech at a scientific gathering here in Cambridge. It went over rather well, if I do say so, because it is amazing that a Hindu judge in the court at Allahabad should be so enterprising and so ambitious. Alas, some news reporters were present, and from the newspaper accounts Science gave further spread to my "endorsement". The fallacies in Sulaiman's work were pretty obvious and one of my assistants promptly examined the details when they appeared a month or two later-- with the usual results. Mr. Hamilton went into it further and did a good job of criticism. I shall therefore probably leave him out of a damage suit.

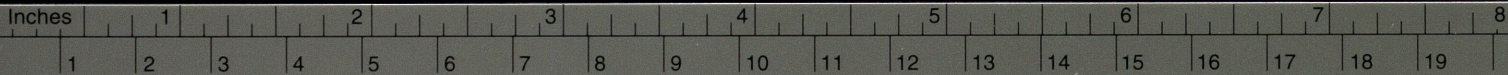
Very truly yours,

(Signed) HARLOW SHAPLEY.

P.S. within the past month I have receive two more enthusiastic and final proofs ~~of~~ that the relativity theory is nonsense-- one from a woman in Texas and the other from an "institution" in Ohio. There essays come in at the rate of about three a year.

H.S.

'True copy'

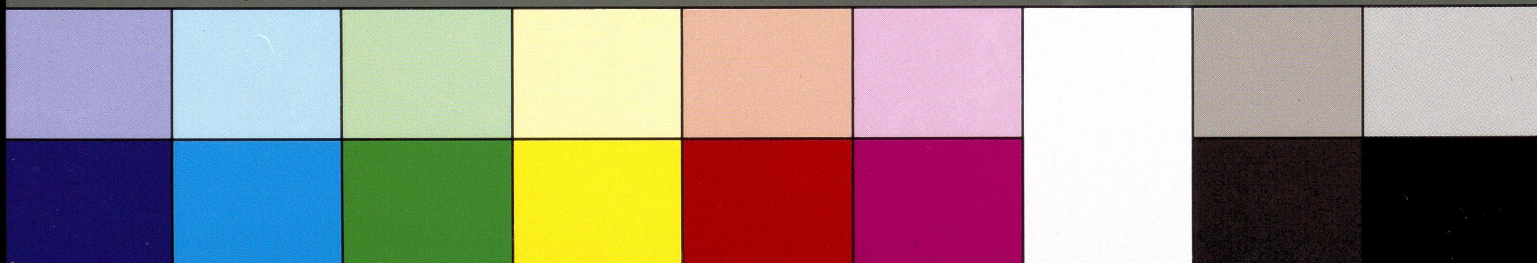


Centimetres

TIFFEN Color Control Patches

© The Tiffen Company, 2007

Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black



Harvard College Observatory
Cambridge, Massachusetts

12th November 1937.

B.S.M.
C/O, The Secretary, CURRENT SCIENCE,
Institute of Science,
Hebbal P.O., Bangalore, India.

Dear Sir,

Your reference to me on page 145 of "Current Science" for September 1935 leads me to send you a copy of a letter printed in the Princeton Alumni Weekly a few weeks ago. The Alumni Weekly is a journal which referred to Mr. Hamilton's work and to my apparent support of Sulaiman. You are right in your intimation that I had not made a study of Sulaiman's work and had in fact not seen it at all, but only the single paragraph reference in Nature.

Incidentally, "Current Science" is a very impressive Journal.

You may be interested to know that Dr. S. Chandrasekhar of Trinity College, England, has been appointed a lecture in Cosmic Physics at the Harvard Observatory for the current year. He will arrive in America about the first of December and during the next three or four months will conduct a series of seminars which will be attended by the graduate students in Astronomy and Astrophysics at Harvard and by some members of the observatory staff.

Very truly yours,

(Sd.) Harlow Shapley,

'True Copy'

