

then for different elements the concentrations may be read off from this diagram. Of course, here also the resulting values are relative values, and they can be made absolute only by the knowledge of the concentration of at least one element in one level.

ANT. PANNEKOEK.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

To the Editors of 'The Observatory'.

Theoretical Colour Temperatures.

GENTLEMEN,—

Dr. Unsöld, in his letter in the August number of *The Observatory*, is right in remarking that in my paper on "Theoretical Colour Temperatures" his paper in the *Zeitschrift für Astrophysik* should have been quoted as well as Dr. Biermann's papers. I must apologize for not reading his treatment of this problem. The computations on line intensities, which had to be ready by a definite date, so entirely occupied my time last year that I had to neglect the regular study of current publications. When I saw the results of Messrs. Greaves, Davidson and Martin, and realized that my computed absorption coefficients could clear up the matter, I sent a note about it, without looking for similar investigations.

It is certainly desirable, in general, to give close attention to all current literature; but with the enormously increasing productivity of science, this can be done only at the cost of time which should be spent on one's own research work. It is often easier and more efficient to attack a problem in one's own way than to follow another's development of the same problem. Independent treatments of the same problem are more often no waste of scientific energy.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

University of Amsterdam,
1935 October 20.

ANT. PANNEKOEK.