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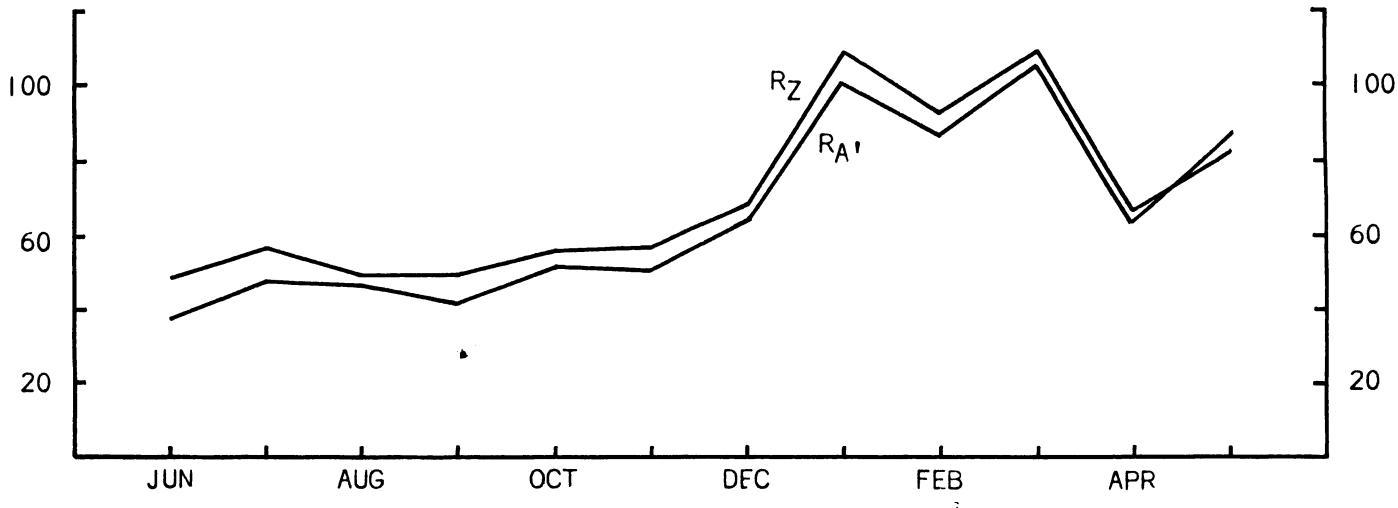
## SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MAY

Solar activity remained at a low level during the first two thirds of May but on the 18th the outlying spots of an active region started to rotate over the east limb of the sun. By the 19th, the leading edge of an F-type group appeared and developed into an extremely active region during the next few days. This group was classified gamma, and at the hight of its activity, as beta-gamma, according to the magnetic classification system. It was one of the most active sunspot groups of the present cycle and produced many major flares. A severe magnetic storm on the 25th produced a remarkable aurora visible even in low latitudes.

By 25 May the large F-type group had reached the central meridian and was easily visible to the unaided eye. Together with the two G-type groups close to its western edge, it stretched over 30 degrees of solar longitude. The complex nature of this sunspot group and its close association with the G-type groups made it a difficult object for sunspot observers to classify. Magnetograph drawings of these sunspot groups are reproduced as a supplement to this issue of the Solar Bulletin. Magnetic polarities show clearly that it was actually three sunspot groups in close association.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



| ($R_{A'}$) May 1967 | | ($R_Z$) May 1967 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| mean = 87.2 | | mean = 82.1 | |
| 1 | 87 | 1 | 74 |
| 2 | 70 | 2 | 77 |
| 3 | 68 | 3 | 46 |
| 4 | 60 | 4 | 62 |
| 5 | 73 | 5 | 66 |
| 6 | 43 | 6 | 46 |
| 7 | 26 | 7 | 41 |
| 8 | 21 | 8 | 18 |
| 9 | 24 | 9 | 25 |
| 10 | 17 | 10 | 17 |
| 11 | 17 | 11 | 25 |
| 12 | 31 | 12 | 34 |
| 13 | 32 | 13 | 29 |
| 14 | 34 | 14 | 38 |
| 15 | 47 | 15 | 36 |
| 16 | 39 | 16 | 35 |
| 17 | 42 | 17 | 38 |
| 18 | 64 | 18 | 48 |
| 19 | 73 | 19 | 70 |
| 20 | 100 | 20 | 74 |
| 21 | 107 | 21 | 96 |
| 22 | 127 | 22 | 118 |
| 23 | 127 | 23 | 137 |
| 24 | 128 | 24 | 156 |
| 25 | 171 | 25 | 159 |
| 26 | 178 | 26 | 174 |
| 27 | 194 | 27 | 194 |
| 28 | 185 | 28 | 197 |
| 29 | 160 | 29 | 148 |
| 30 | 182 | 30 | 139 |
| 31 | 175 | 31 | 127 |

The American relative sunspot numbers ($R_{A'}$) are computed from observations made by the Solar Division of the American Association of Variable Star Observers.

The Zurich provisional relative sunspot numbers ($R_Z$) are computed from observations made at the Federal Observatory in Zurich and its stations in Locarno and Arosa.