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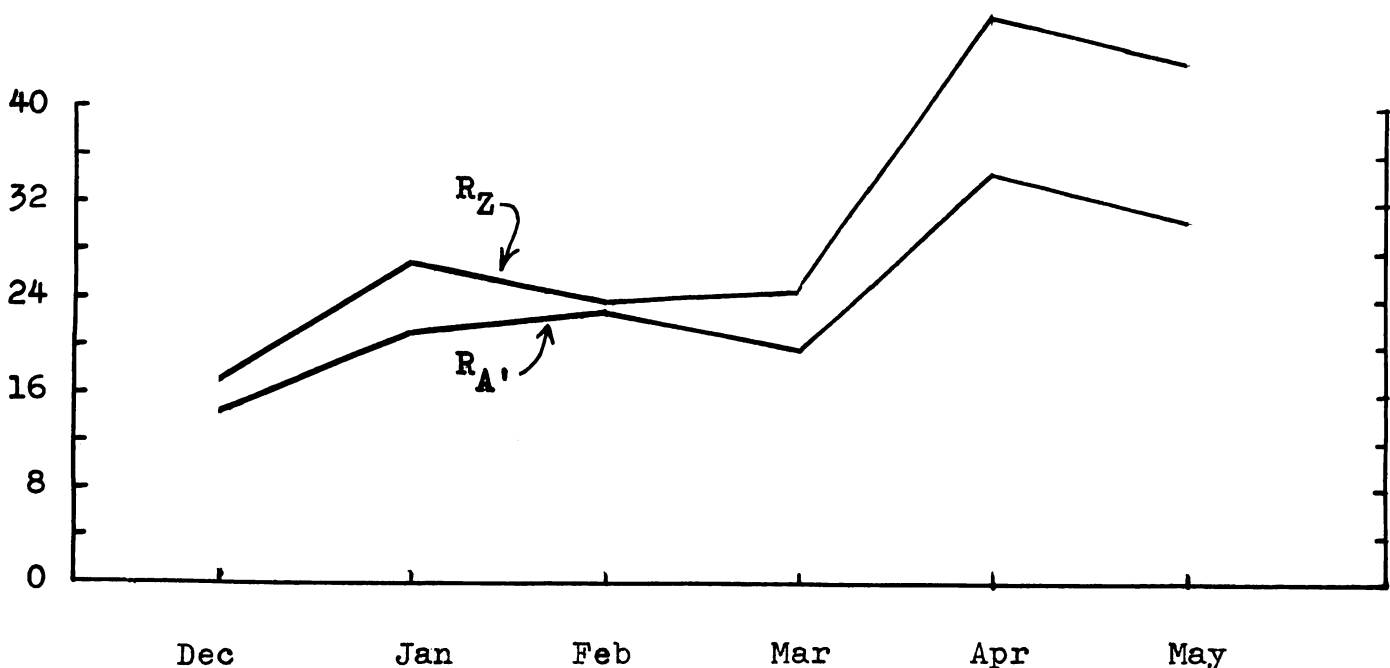
SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MAY

Sunspot activity decreased slightly from the high level of last month. The monthly mean of the American sunspot number dropped from 34.6 in April to 30.5 this month. There were no large sunspot groups during May such as have been seen during previous months. Two groups were seen in the southern hemisphere this month.

There were several very small ionospheric disturbances recorded by Solar Division observers during May but such activity was well below the level of the previous two months. The only widely recorded event was a small one that reached maximum at 1742 UT on 17 May. This event was probably associated with a subflare reported at 1733 UT that day.

The sun was spotless on the 10th and 11th although there had been no spotless days the previous month. 12 groups with lifetimes greater than 2 days were seen compared to 10 such groups in April. The American sunspot number reached its highest point of the month on the 26th when 5 sunspot groups were visible.

RECENT TREND OF
 RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



(R_A) May 1966

mean = 30.5

1	24
2	37
3	35
4	19
5	50
6	17
7	12
8	11
9	8
10	0
11	0
12	5
13	9
14	22
15	28
16	24
17	18
18	14
19	33
20	56
21	59
22	51
23	59
24	59
25	49
26	61
27	48
28	41
29	40
30	37
31	56

(R_Z) May 1966

mean = 43.7

1	50
2	48
3	57
4	61
5	38
6	23
7	13
8	16
9	8
10	0
11	14
12	14
13	23
14	52
15	46
16	47
17	33
18	27
19	34
20	57
21	80
22	66
23	68
24	68
25	64
26	70
27	66
28	60
29	39
30	58
31	56

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 at Locarno and Arosa.