

## URSIGRAMMES.

Considerable interest attaches to the study of the correlation that exists between certain types of phenomena observed on the Sun and the terrestrial effects which accompany them. It is now well established that solar flares (or chromospheric eruptions as they used to be called some years ago) are responsible for magnetic storms, geomagnetic crochets, radio fade-outs, bursts of solar "noise," etc. These eruptions are noticed almost always in the vicinity of sunspots. Even when no eruption is actually happening, the area surrounding a sunspot is a disturbed region and is potentially active. Such a region is designated as a *centre of activity*. During recent years there has also been a growing volume of evidence in support of a possible correlation between certain ionospheric disturbances and the *sudden disappearance of quiescent prominences*. These prominences may appear either as bright formations protruding from the solar limb or as dark absorption markings on the solar disc.

With a view to keeping geophysical workers all over the world posted with these aspects of solar activity, the International Astronomical Union has sponsored a scheme according to which coded messages called URSIGRAMMES prepared by certain solar observatories are broadcast daily at specified times. The Solar Physics Observatory, Kodaikanal has been participating in this scheme, and URSIGRAMME messages based on visual and photographic observations of the Sun made at Kodaikanal are being broadcast through the All India Met. Broadcasting Centre, New Delhi (call sign VVD3) beginning from 1st May 1949. These messages can be heard at 1400 hrs. U. T. and also at 2000 hrs. U. T. on the following frequencies:—

### *Frequencies (kcs.).*

5205

7580

13100

17650

The URSIGRAMME code and further particulars connected with these messages can be had from the Director, Solar Physics Observatory, Kodaikanal.

The only other Solar Observatory which daily broadcasts solar data at present is the Meudon Observatory (Paris).