



knowledge about the precise heights at which some of the colours are present, but photographs taken on modern fast colour films should be capable of being used to determine this. However, care needs to be taken to ensure that consistent results are obtained.

The magnetic disturbances associated with aurorae can be very marked, and it is quite possible to construct simple magnetometers – usually of the suspended-magnet type – which will give an indication of the changes taking place in the Earth's magnetic field. Some amateurs have constructed more sophisticated devices, including those known as fluxgate magnetometers, which permit continuous recording of the magnetic disturbances. The changes in the ionosphere with the occurrence of aurorae have always been known to affect radio reception, and the detection of such anomalous conditions is yet another aspect which can be followed with comparatively simple equipment. Both magnetic and radio studies have the great additional advantage, of course, that they can proceed whatever the weather and the cloud conditions.

