

## Lecture on the Eclipse Expedition to Brazil.

It is one thing to live in an established house or an observatory and another very different thing to establish an observatory and living quarters in a place where no one had ever dreamed of such a set up. But the moon and the sun despite the wonderful order of their motions can combine in a capricious pair of celestial imps when it comes to drawing paths of totality for solar eclipses.

For months before the recent eclipse in Brazil the members of the U. S. Army Air Force and the scientific personnel of the National Geographic Society studied maps and read up on their geography and scant weather reports to find the best site for an eclipse camp. We took the best places along the path where the weather would most likely be favorable in May. At about  $17^{\circ}$  south some 400 miles inland in Brazil's vast cattle country ~~at~~ a town called Bocaiuva caught the eye of some member of our party. There was a railroad, as ancient as railroads come, with wood burning locomotives, narrow gauge track and winding in and out of the granite hills that have ruffled the whole surface of the earth in that part of the world. There were no highways leading into the place. The two autos, both 1930 Fords and one other truck, had reached the town via the railroad. Once in town they were limited in their travels ~~by~~ to a few of the main streets ~~and~~ of the town. The town of ~~Boca~~ Bocaiuva was a contented little place where beer cost 50¢ per bottle and gasoline perhaps a bit more.

But the town had an airport, large enough for cub planes which sometimes flew over from a livelier city thirty five miles, or four hours by train, to the north. That town was Montes Claros, and the