

than a make-shift and the requirement remains for better control over bubble and background illumination.

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GIORDANO BRUNO

SIR,—In an article ‘Navigational Aspects of Gravity Determinations’ (this *Journal*, Vol. V, p. 271) the following passage appears:

‘For a long time it was believed that the Earth was perfectly round because it had been divinely created. Giordano Bruno, in 1600, suggested that it should be flattened at the poles, on account of its rotation, and was burned at the stake for his impiety.’

Lest readers should think that Bruno was martyred because he suggested that the Earth might be an oblate spheroid, may I please state that Bruno is not known to have made any such suggestion, and that there is no evidence that he was burned for anything other than heretical theological teaching.

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Yours faithfully,  
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ERRATA

*Method's of Conducting Ships' Speed Trials*

EQUATION (2) in the paper by J. Th. Verstelle on page 300 of the July number of the *Journal* should read  $m_v^2 = m_d^2 \left( \frac{3600}{t} \right)^2 + d^2 m_t^2 \left( \frac{3600}{t^2} \right)^2$ . The formula quoted on p. 301 for deriving the mean square error in the distance made good should read  $m_d = \sqrt{\{(0.28)^2 + 2(0.50)^2\}} = 0.76$  metres.

*Refraction at Sea*

THE mean error quoted on line 8 of Captain Brett Hilder's paper (Vol. VI, p. 314) should read 1.2 miles, not 12 miles.