

1981JAVSO...10

A. A. V. S. O.

Said SS Aurigae to U Geminorum
 "They're learning more about us than their fathers knew before 'em."
 Said SU Tauri - "Can our secret be uncovered?"
 Said R Cor. Bor. - "We're lost if we're discovered."
 Then up rose SS Cygni - he was bright and white and high
 Standing full 8.2 on the rostrum of the sky.
 As the Dean of stellar sages he was far above the others
 And his beam seemed to break as he addressed his weaker brothers:
 "We might as well give up - for whether hiding high or low,
 We cannot escape the vigils of the A. A. V. S. O."
 Then with breathless voice they murmured, "Do you think there's
 any hope?"
 And he said, "I see the specter of a dreadful spectroscope."
 Hearing this, the fainter brothers seemed to be so overcome
 That they sank into their places, down almost to minimum.
 And just before the sun arose, they heard old Mira shout:
"The Telescopes will get you if you
don't
watch
out."

Written by David B. Pickering
 New York, May 8, 1920.

Read by Carolyn Hurlless at 70th Annual Meeting,
 Waltham, October 30, 1981.