

Opening Address

G. POLVANI

President of the Italian Physical Society.

Yesterday, Prof. RIGHINI invited me to say some introductory words at this opening ceremony for the Symposium on Aerodynamics in Stellar Atmospheres.

At first, I really wanted to refuse this task; but now, on the contrary I am very glad to have the opportunity to answer to his many kind remarks, Therefore, I would like to thank him for all this, also in the name of the Ente Villa Monastero.

Prof. RIGHINI has been here twice previously, as Director of summer courses of the Società Italiana di Fisica which dealt with topics in some way connected to those of this symposium. This return to Varenna, promoted by Prof. MINNAERT and by many others last year, shows how much everybody has become fond of this place.

On behalf of the Ente Villa Monastero and of the Società Italiana di Fisica, I personally am delighted to say « welcome », or more precisely « bentornati », to Prof. RIGHINI, to Prof. MINNAERT and to all the participants of this symposium. I sincerely and fervently hope that you all will once again return to this wonderful spot on the Lake of Como, in Italy.

I hope you will excuse me for this topographical crescendo, for this geographical amplification of my speech: I must confess that I love Varenna and the people of Varenna, so rightly proud of their history, which is full of important events, but to speak of them is not the purpose of my speech.

I would rather put a question to Prof. RIGHINI, who dwells in that part of the world that I also consider as my region: Tuscany. The question refers to one of those centenary or semi-centenary celebrations which generally take place in remembrance of an important event or person. Do you remember what happened 350 years ago, precisely on July 1610? One of the greatest discoveries, I would even say the greatest and most peculiar discovery relating to aerodynamics of stellar atmospheres — Galileo's discovery of sunspots. This symposium is the most proper and highest celebration of this discovery

that we could imagine. And it is of great interest to me that nobody, not even the astronomers, have thought of this coincidence. So I am grateful to all of you, especially to Dr. RIGHINI, for this oversight — so that I might propose to the organizers of this symposium that it be dedicated spiritually to Galileo. Is it too high an expectation for the outcome of this symposium at Varenna, that I anticipate? We shall see. I propose to the Council of the Society that they publish the Proceedings of this Symposium in their journal, *Nuovo Cimento*.