

Astronomical Society of S. Africa

Cape Centre

Sixteenth Session 1929-1930

The Fifth Ordinary meeting of the Session was held at Benson House 57a Long Street (Cape Town) on Wednesday Evening December 11 1929 at 8.15 pm Mr H.C. Mason in the Chair. There was a fair attendance.

The meeting took the form of a 'Question Night'. Questions were submitted by members and replies as far as possible were obtained from Country Members. A question having reference to the time of occultation of a star by the moon was replied to in a short paper by Dr. Strachan of Botswana. The paper being read by Mr A.W. Long. Mr H.E. Houghton followed giving a reply in a graphic manner by means of diagrams. Mr Long exhibited a diagram through the epidiascope showing how the time of occultation was affected from different latitudes.

The thanks of the meeting were accorded Messrs Strachan Houghton Long for their contributions toward the discussion.

To the Question 'How many motions of the earth are known?' A reply was received from Dr J.K.E. Halm. The Secretary also read a letter from Dr Halm in which he offered to write a paper on the subject.

The Secretary was inclined to thank Dr Halm for his reply and letter and also accepting his offer. The question 'How does the earth respond to the Sunspot cycle?' was replied to by Mr R. Watson in an interesting paper of ~~Sunspot activity~~.

A question on the effect of Sunspots on the weather was replied to by Mr H.V. Brooker of Pretoria giving his own observations on the subject. Lots of thanks were accorded both these gentlemen.

Mr Nedue Mackenzie sent replies to the following Questions: ¹ "What is a true anomaly?"

~~Ques~~ ² The difference between Meteors & meteorites. Some discussion followed the second question; the Chairman giving a short address, stating that there was some evidence ~~from~~ ^{that} the structure of meteoric meteorites were not quite the same that meteorites appeared to be a product of the Solar System while meteors came from outside. A question having reference to the eclipse passing through Ophiuchus. was replied to by Mr Hough.

A question regarding observations of Venus casting a shadow caused some discussion. The Secretary & Mrs Burrell. both stated that they had observed it.

The Question "Is there a Lunar zodiacal light?" also led to a discussion no one present had observed it but Mr Houghton read an extract from Popular Astronomy in which it stated that such an observation had been made.

This concluded the questions.

The Rev John Price of Staff Rinet. who was present asked whether the Cape Jones with the notes of the sky could not be made to read country members earlier in the month. The paper after reading him after phenomena reported ~~was fast~~ had taken place.

He also advocated a propaganda of telescope construction among young people in order that they may become interested in the study of the heavens.

Mr Shobor proposed Rev. D. Luckhuff of Stillenbrook as a member.

The meeting terminated at. 11. pm.

H. C. Prusson
Chairman