

Astronomical Society of South Africa

Cape Centre

Sixteenth Session 1929-30

The Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Society was held at Benson House Long Street on Wednesday Evening May 14. 1930 at 8.15 pm.

Mr H. B. Mason in the Chair. There was a good attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of April 9. 1930 were read and confirmed.

Mr A. E. Blinksley was elected to be a member.

Dr R. J. A. Innes F.R.S. addressed the meeting on the recently discovered Trans-Neptunian Planet. He gave a resume of the discovery of Uranus by Herschel and the work of Adams & Le Verrier that led to the discovery of Neptune. He then dealt with Lowell's researches re a planet outside the orbit of Neptune; and with the object discovered at the Lowell Observatory. From the scanty information available he had calculated a distance of 40 units. It now appeared that the orbit was like that of a comet, but as the observed arc was very small, it was probable that in time this would be modified as more observations were made.

He then discussed what he considered was a remarkable thing - namely the establishment of so many observatories in South Africa, he gave a resume of those already established and of others proposed.

He appealed to members to observe occultations which he considered a very useful work for amateurs to undertake. He thought that the observations of the forthcoming occultation of Antares would lead to interesting results. He also suggested that observations should be made of the "Green Ray". He had observed eight sunsets at Sea Point and had seen the ray twice, it was not however green.

but decidedly blue.

Mr Herbert Horrocks in leading the discussion which followed addressed the meeting amplifying some of St James remarks he described how the green ray had been produced experimentally by means of an artificial sun and that all the colours in the spectrum could be produced.

Mr Long said that he had observed the Ray from ship-board and what he saw was distinctly green.

Several questions asked by Messrs Long Leamy & Houghton were replied to by St James.

The meeting terminated at 10.20 pm.

W. J. Pease