

Astronomical Society of South Africa.
Cape Centre.

Seventeenth Session.

The second ordinary meeting of the session was held at Benson House, Long Street on Wednesday evening September 10th, 1930 at 8.15 pm.

In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman, Mr. H.C. Mason took the chair. There was a fair attendance. Minutes of meeting of August 13th were read & confirmed. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Schonegevel, Mr. Pratt acted for him.

Mr. Long proposed & Capt. Cameron Swan seconded, that a letter be sent to the Secretary expressing regret at his illness & expressing ~~in~~ ^{the hope} ~~that~~ that ~~he~~ he would have a speedy recovery. Mr. Long pointed out that this was the first meeting at which Mr. Schonegevel had not been present during 14 years.

Mr. D.C. Burrell read a paper on "Double Stars". Mr. Burrell described the three classes of double stars:

1. Visual binaries - separated when viewed through a telescope.
2. Spectroscopic binaries - not separated when viewed through a telescope.
3. Eclipsing variables.

The paper was illustrated by several

diagrams, illustrating eccentricity of orbits & eclipsing variables.

There was a lengthy discussion on the paper, some very interesting remarks being made by Mr. Bleksley in connection with the evolution of double stars & finally their separation away from each other. A hope was expressed that Mr. Bleksley would read a paper on some of his recent research work. Mr. Long proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Burrell - this was carried unanimously.

Lt. Comdr. Raleigh referred to the death of Prof. Turner - a prominent astronomer. He considered this should be placed on record by the Cape Centre & it was agreed to by the meeting.

"Visualising the Orbit of a Comet" by Mr. H. E. Wood, M. Sc. This paper was read by Mr. Long. Mr. Wood had noticed that amateurs had difficulty in ascertaining information from books as to comets' orbits & in visualising their orbits. He described how to draw comets' orbits & gave diagrams & tables of figures rendering it very simple for amateurs.

The diagrams were shown by the epideascope. Mr. Long exhibited some models he had made

to illustrate the inclination of the orbits of comets.

Mr. Long mentioned that Temple's periodic comet No. 2 had been discovered by Mr. Wood & that it had a magnitude of 12.

Mr. Wood's interesting paper will be published in due course in the Society's journal for the benefit of all members.

Capt. Cameron Swan proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Wood for his paper - this was carried unanimously.

Mr. Forbes read a letter he had received from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific thanking him for the notes published in the Cape Times of July 1930, ^{which} he had sent & suggesting that the Astron. Soc. of ~~the Pacific~~ ^{South Africa} joins the Astron. Soc. of ~~the Pacific~~ ^{the Pacific} as a member. It was proposed by Lt. Com^{dr}. Kaleigh & seconded by Mr. Long that the committee consider the question of ~~the Astron. Soc. of South Africa joining the Astron. Soc. of the Pacific~~ ~~the Astron. Soc. of the Pacific~~ ~~the question of~~ the Cape Centre joining another society such as the Astron. Society of the Pacific as a member.

This was agreed to by all present.

John H. ...

12 November 1930