

## Astronomical Society of South Africa Cape Centre

The Third Ordinary meeting of the session was held at Benson House Long Street on Wednesday evening November 12 1930 A.P. 15. Mr R. Horrocks in the Chair there was a fair attendance.

Minutes of meeting of September 10. 1930 were read and confirmed

(Confirmation proposed by Capt. Cameron Swan & seconded by Mr. ~~Lyons~~)

The chairman announced the resignation of the office of Treasurer to the Centre by Mr A. F. J. Forbes. and that the Committee had in terms of Rule III of the rules of the Centre appointed Mr Ridley Shipman to fill the office for the unexpired term of the office.

Capt. Cameron Swan proposed that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mr Forbes for his services to the centre.

<sup>seconded by Mr Watson and</sup>  
this was agreed to with acclamation

The chairman referred to the failure, owing to rain of the observational meeting which had been arranged to be held at the Royal Observatory on October 12. The telescope that was to have been used was the one with which the observations for parallax had recently been made at the Observatory <sup>and at what</sup> a near neighbour to the solar system has been discovered with a parallax of  $\cdot 237$ .

The Chairman said that the Committee were arranging with the Observatory for the use of one of the smaller instruments for allowing groups of persons interested in Astronomy to observe, application to be made through the Secretary - when arrangements would be made

The Committee think that such opportunities may prove an incentive for members of the public to join the Society.

The chairman also referred to the coming year approach of Eros. He asked members to observe Eros as a variable star when were considerable fluctuations of light and such observations would be of great value.

New Member Miss Agnes Winifred Webster of Fish Hook was elected to membership.

Address Mr E. N. Grundlay M. Sc gave an address on "Terrestrial Magnetism". He described the properties of ~~lodestone~~ lodestone - which was known to the Ancient Chinese - he described the evolution of the knowledge of magnets and magnetism, which as one result was due the ~~ancient~~ invention of the mariners Compass, which made navigation safe - what magnetism was or what it was due to was not yet known - He explained by diagrams drawn on the black-board the various theories that had been put forward to account for it, but none were without puzzling difficulties.

A discussion took place principally by Mr Horrocks and Mr Watson.

Mr Watson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Grundlay for his interesting address which would give the members much to think about.

Mr Long seconded <sup>the vote</sup> it was carried unanimously. The Hon Secretary (Mr Schomberg) informed the meeting that he had recently visited Bloemfontein where he had visited The Lamont-Hussey Observatory on Naval Hill and the

Harvard Observatory at Mazels work. The directors  
of these Observatories S. R. Rossiter and S. Paraskewopolus  
had shown him the equipment of the Observatories.  
Both these gentlemen had promised to write papers  
for use at the Society's meetings.  
The meeting then terminated.

~~Harvard~~

December 10<sup>th</sup> 1930