

Astronomical Society of South Africa
Cape Centre

Seventeenth Session 1930-1931

The eighth Ordinary meeting of the Session was held at Benson House, 57a Long Street on Wednesday Evening June 10, 1931 at 8.15 pm

Mr H. Horrocks. F.R.S. in the Chair there was a fair attendance

Minutes of meeting ~~held~~ ^{held} May 13, 1931 were read and confirmed. There being no business the Chairman called on Dr J. Jones to address the meeting. Dr Jones then gave an address on "Nova Pictoris"

Dr Jones said that on May 25, 1925 he received a telegram from Mr Watson at Beaufort West stating that he had that morning observed what he thought was a Nova. At the time he did not know that Mr Watson was one of the discoverers of Nova Aquilae but he treated the telegram seriously and although it was a holiday arranged for making observations in the evening - when the Nova was readily observed in the position indicated by Mr Watson it was then of magnitude 2.3. - with the assistance of Dr J. Lunt spectrograms were obtained the same night and the information cabled the next day. There were three maxima the first occurred on June 7. - Magnitude 1.18 by the end of June it had dropped to 3.5 the second maximum occurred on July 27. mag 1.64 maximum on Aug. 4. ^{mag} 3.27. It then commenced a rise reaching mag 1.85 on Aug 9. after which it has faded gradually. In middle of 1926 it was mag 5.6 at present about mag 9.0. The lecturer then described the changes which took place in the spectrum - At discovery the spectrum was F 5 at which type it remained till the first maximum was reached when emission bands began to appear this went on increasing till the absorption spectrum was effaced.

Plates at Harvard showed that the magnitude of the star
 from 1924 to the year of discovery was steadily 12.75 -
 but on the evening of April 13 1928 it had a mag. of 3.

He then gave an account of the discussion of the
 observation, - mentioning Prof Milne's theory of a
 a Nova due to the collapse and falling in of an
 unstable star.

The lecture which lasted about two hours was
 attentively listened to. At the conclusion
 the Chairman Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Watson
 addressed the meeting.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Jones concluded the
 proceedings

H. Horrocks

19 August 1931