

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)
 Twentieth Session.

Minutes of First Ordinary Meeting, held in chambers of Standard Bank, (A.B.C. Branch), 111 St. George's Street, Cape Town, on Wednesday, August 16, 1933 at 8.15 P.M.

Mr. Watson was in the Chair. There was a good attendance.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on June 21, 1933, were read and confirmed. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of July 19, 1933, were read for check.

The names of four people which should have been read at this meeting for election to membership were, owing to a misunderstanding on the part of the new Secretary, ~~unintentionally postponed~~ not read, but were put down for reading at the next Ordinary Meeting.

The chairman referred to the loss which the Cape Centre had suffered through the ^{death} loss of Mr. H. W. Crowther, of 94, Rissik St, Pretoria, the meeting rising as a mark of respect, and as a token of sympathy for the relatives of the deceased.

The following nominations were received and submitted to the Committee for consideration:

Mr. E. J. L. Brittain, ~~Prop~~ Roslin Hotel, Jambouerskloof, C. Town.
 Mr. H. E. Houghton.
 Mr. W. S. Andrews. Mr. Martin J. Pollard, University of Cape Town.
 Mr. B. W. Long.
 Mr. W. S. Andrews. Mr. B. Wulfschan, Technical College, Cape Town.
 Mr. A. Menzies.
 Mr. H. E. Houghton.
 Prof. L. Crawford, University of C. Town. Mr. H. Horrocks.
 Mr. W. S. Andrews.

Mr. H. E. Houghton addressed the meeting on "Double Stars". He traced the history of du-^{*} observing from the time of the Herschels (his William + his John) to the present day. The various kinds of stars in this class were given, for example Visual doubles, Variable stars, and spectroscopic Binaries. The difference between physical + apparent pairs was explained, special mention was made of the magnificent work

done at the Cape by his John Herschel in this branch of Astronomy. Other du- γ observers of recent times were Struve at Dorpat, Burnham's work with 3 + 6-inch telescopes, and Dr. Lyte's observations of mass of doubles measured by their mutual attraction.

It was remarked that the cones of Sirius was found by calculations. A theory to account for du's was referred to, namely, the near approach of 2 γ 's, their orbits becoming one under influence of mutual attraction. This theory was proved false.

Mr. Long said that no research work could be done on du γ 's with small telescopes.

Mr. Mc Intyre referred to the late Dr. Innes's work on this subject, on stars in the S. Hemisphere. He also gave a brief account of Herschel's method of finding the true orbit of a binary, from its apparent orbit.

A question on the appearance of the newly-formed spot on Saturn was answered by the Hon. Secretary. The proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Houghton for his address.

H. W. Schonegevel

Meeting of Committee held in Chambers of Standard Bank, St. George's St., on Sept. 20 at 8 P.M. Present: Messrs Long, Mc Intyre, Houghton, Schonegevel, Lt. Capt. Cameron-Swan, & the Hon. Secretary.

The following names were considered & passed for election: Professor L. Crawford, 21, Pillans Rd, Rosebank.

pro: H. Horrocks, sec. W. H. Andrews.

E. J. L. Brittain, Roslin Hotel, Lambourn, C.T.

pro: H. E. Houghton, sec. W. H. Andrews.

Martin J. Pollard, University of C. Town.

pro: A. W. Long, sec. W. G. Andrews.