

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

Minutes of Seventh Ordinary Meeting, held in Standard Bank Buildings, 111 St. George's St., Cape Town on Wednesday, ^{at} 18 April, at 8.15 P.M. Mr. Watson was in the Chair.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March, 1934 were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary read part of a letter from the Union Observatory to the Cape Observatory, in which it was stated that the comet-like object recently discovered by Mr. C. Jackson, might turn out to be, not a comet, but a minor planet with a high inclination and a small distance.

Mr. R. R. Pratt read a very interesting article on "The Possibilities of Inter-Planetary Travel", dealing with most of the technical details involved in building a 'space-ship'.

Mr. H. E. Houghton spoke on "Astronomical Team-work", contrasting the solitary labours of the early astronomers with the well-organised astronomical institutions of to-day.

The meeting accorded these two speakers a hearty vote of thanks. Mr. D. G. McIntyre recorded the vote, and informed the meeting of the presence of Miss H. Troughton, a visitor from the Johannesburg branch of the Society, and a member of the committee of that centre.

The following Nomination was received and submitted to the Committee for consideration: Miss Mabel Girdwood, Girls High School, Rondebosch. Pro: Miss W. Linnell, rec: Mr. D. C. Alletson.

The Chairman asked whether the meteor seen over Cape Town on Sunday, April 15, had been observed by any members present. Mr. Pratt had seen this object

from his home at Rondebosch. It appeared low in the sky, travelling south, and of a green colour. Mr. B. F. Jearey had seen the meteor from Belville. Mr. D. C. Alletson had seen it over the sea from the Camps Bay side of Table Mountain (the Pipe-Track). He agreed with Mr. Pratt's description except as to colour. Mr. Alletson issued an invitation to members to use the 10-inch reflector of the Diocesan College, in return for which he hoped members would instil some knowledge of astronomy into the minds of the students of the College.

It was announced that at the next meeting Mr. D. C. Bunnell would lecture on "Cosmic Dust and Luminous night-clouds."

~~The meeting then terminated.~~ The Chairman informed the members that Mr. H. E. Houghton had presented a picture of his John Herschel's reflecting telescope, with Table Mountain + Devil's Peak in the background, to the Society, to be framed and hung on the walls of the meeting-room. The meeting expressed its appreciation of this gift in a suitable manner. The meeting then terminated.

R Watson

1934 May 16

Meeting of Committee held in Mountain Club room, Yorkshire House, 38 Strand St, Cape Town at 8 P.M. on 16th May, 1934.

The following name was considered and passed for election as an Associate member: Miss M. Birdwood, Girls High School, Rondebosch. ^{For} Miss W. Linnell. _{2nd} Mr. D. C. Alletson.

R Watson
1934 July 2