

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-First Session

Minutes of first Ordinary meeting, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand Street, Cape Town on Wednesday the 15th August 1934, at 8.15 P.M. Mr. H. W. Schonegevel was in the Chair.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 20th June 1934, were read and confirmed.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee of the Cape Centre had decided to establish a fund, which would be called the Astronomical Society (Cape Centre) Telescope Fund, for the purpose of procuring an observing instrument for the use of members of the Centre. He said that when such an instrument had been obtained, it would be used not only for making members familiar with the salient features of the Southern sky, but also to enable the members of the Centre to carry out a definite observing programme, such as double-stars and variable-stars observing, from year to year.

Mr. H. W. Schonegevel said that he had received a communication from Mr. C. L. O' B. Dutton of Caledon St, George, who ~~was~~ expressed himself as being very pleased at the establishment of the above Fund, and that he was donating 10/- towards it. Capt. Cameron-Swan also expressed pleasure in the starting of a Telescope Fund, and said that he also was willing to give 1/2 a guinea towards it.

A report on the Solar Eclipse of the 10th August was received from Mr. H. E. Houghton, and read to the meeting by the Chairman. Cloud had interfered with observations at the Cape, and members had very little to report.

Questions were next put to the meeting by

Mr. Watson, Capt. Cameron-Suzan, Mr. H. W. Schonegevel, and the Hon. Secretary. Capt. Cameron-Suzan asked for information as to the present whereabouts of a photographic objective which had been presented to Sir David Gill by Wasmuth. The Hon. Secretary promised to investigate and report at the following meeting. The Hon. Secretary read part of a letter received from Mr. G. Cowen of Idutywa, Transkei, in which he asks for an explanation of the streaks radiating from some of the large lunar craters. Mr. Watson asked, and replied to, the following questions: (a) At what height above sea-level must one be to be able to observe the horizon distant a 100 miles? (b) How do we know that the Earth is not flat? Mr. Schonegevel asked, and replied to, the following question: Is it known why the sun being a gaseous body, exhibits a sharp outline instead of a diffuse one?

A vote of thanks to Mr. Schonegevel and Mr. Watson for the trouble taken by these two members in answering and in ^{bringing} ~~thinking~~ of various questions to ^{before} ~~put~~ to the meeting, was passed with acclamation.

The Chairman intimated that the speaker at the following ordinary meeting would be H. W. Whittingdale, the Director of the Trigonometrical Survey of the Union.

The meeting then terminated.

H. W. Schonegevel

19.9.34