

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-First Session.

Minutes of second Ordinary meeting, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand Street, Cape Town on Wednesday the 19th September 1934, at 8.15 P.M. Mr. H. W. Schonegevel was in the Chair.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th August 1934, were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary, in reply to a question asked by Capt. Cameron-Swan at the previous Meeting, informed members that the photographic lens loaned to his David Gill by Wasmuth, was in regular use at the Cape Observatory, where it formed part of the apparatus ~~for~~ used for imprinting reference lines on photographic plates.

The following ~~of~~ Nominations were received and submitted to the Committee for consideration: Mr. H. F. Mullis, Royal Observatory, ^{pro. Mr. A. Menzies} _{sec. " J. H. Peirce.} Mr. E. H. Tilbitts, Royal Observatory, ^{pro. Mr. A. Menzies} _{sec. " J. H. Peirce} Mr. J. B. G. Turnes, Royal Observatory, ^{pro. Mr. A. Menzies} _{sec. " J. H. Peirce.}

The Chairman (Mr. Schonegevel) read ^{a letter} ~~Mr. T. Mackenzie~~ received from Mr. T. Mackenzie of ~~St~~ Grahamstown, to the meeting. Mr. Mackenzie ~~was~~ mentioned in his letter that the moon on the 9th of September would only be a few hours old at sunset, and was desirous that members of the Centre should communicate any observations of the crescent which they might make, to him. None of the members present had observed the crescent on the above-mentioned date.

Mr. W. Whittingdale, Director of the Trigonometrical Survey of the Union, delivered a most interesting illustrated lecture on "The Surveyor's Debt to the Astronomer". The lectures described the progress made in the measurement of arcs of meridian in various parts of the world in the 17th and 18th cen-

tunes, and showed by means of a shaded map the ~~or~~ short meridian arc measured by Lacaille at the Cape. His Thomas Maclear was the first Astronomer stationed at the Cape Observatory, to extend Lacaille's triangulation, and to check his results. Later his David Gill, the well-known astronomer at the Cape Observatory in the latter part of last century, extended Maclear's measures to cover the whole of the Union with a grid of geodetic triangles.

The lecturer closed his address by mentioning the work at present being done in the survey of South Africa, and he traced the development of the instruments used in the large surveys, from Maclear's time to the present. The tendency in the making of theodolites was to cut down the size of the instrument, so as to allow of easy transportation.

Mr. R. Watson proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer for his interesting address. The ^{members} ~~meeting~~ showed their appreciation of the lecturer's address in the usual manner.

The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that Dr. J. Jackson, His Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape, would read a lecture at the following meeting of the Centre.

The meeting then terminated.

HW Schoneveld

17 Oct 1934