

## Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

## Twenty-First Session.

Minutes of third Ordinary Meeting, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand Street, Cape Town on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> October at 8.15 P.M. There was a good attendance. Mr. H. W. Schoneveld was in the Chair.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1934, were read and confirmed.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected to membership: Messrs. H. F. Mullis, E. H. Tibbitts, and J. B. S. Turner, all of the Royal Observatory, Cape. No further nominations were received.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a communication had been received from the Johannesburg Centre, in which mention was made of the loss sustained by that Centre due to the death of Mr. Theodore Balloutyne Blaschwydt, who had been so active as a comet-hunter. The Chairman moved that the Hon. Secretary be instructed to reply to this letter from the Johannesburg, conveying in his reply the sincere regret and heartfelt sympathy of the Cape members in the severe loss sustained by the Transvaal centre. The motion was agreed to unanimously, all present standing as a mark of respect. The Hon. Secretary was further instructed to hand over the letter, together with an enclosed cutting from a Johannesburg paper, to the Journal Committee.

Miss C. Orpen, in a letter which was read by the Chairman, expressed hearty agreement with the object of the Telescope Fund, and enclosed 10 shillings towards it.

Dr. J. Jackson gave a very interesting talk on "Double Stars". The number of visual binaries was very great, about one star in every 8 being double. Mention was made of the pioneer work done in this department of astronomy by Wilhelm and Otto Struve, Dembowski, the Herschels, and later by Burnham. On the screen were shown the elliptic orbits of derived from observations extending over a long period of years, of some of the brighter double stars. Dr. Jackson also showed photographs of some of the earlier double star observers. The speaker did not enter very deeply into speculation as to the origin of double stars, except to say that there were too many doubles to be accounted for by accidental ~~star~~ proximity only, and that it was the speaker's opinion that most doubles were originally single stars, which had since disintegrated. It was brought to the notice of the meeting that amateurs equipped with telescopes of 6-inch aperture and over, were in a position to do valuable research work in this branch of astronomy.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Jackson at the conclusion of his address. The meeting then terminated.

21/11/34

H. W. Schuyler