

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-second Session.

Minutes of third Ordinary Meeting, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand Street, Cape Town on Wednesday the 16th October at 8.15 P.M.

Mr. D. C. Alletson was in the Chair. The attendance was fair.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th September 1935 were read and confirmed.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the death of Major G. C. Fox, late of Beckford, Kloof Road, Sea Point, who has been a member of the Society since 1923. Those present rose ~~for a few~~ ^{as a} mark of ~~minutes~~ ^{as a} respect.

No further nominations were received.

Miss C. Orpen, in a very instructive lecture on "Stellar Parallax", gave the history of early attempts to measure the distances of stars. Three ways of obtaining a star's distance were described, of which the best is the trigonometric method, or the determination of the relative shift of a star to its companions at different times of the year.

Miss Orpen outlined the work in progress at the Cape Observatory on Stellar Parallax. The lecturer emphasised that it was ~~very~~ necessary for all images on plates taken for parallax determinations to be of the same density. This was achieved by means of an occulting shutter used to cut down the light of the parallax star so that its image should be no larger than that of the fainter comparison stars.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Miss Orpen was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for her interesting address, those present showing their appreciation in the usual manner.

Dr. J. Jackson, H.M. Astronomer, added a few words of praise for the able manner in which the lecturer had treated the subject.

The meeting then terminated.

D. C. Alletson

20/10/35