

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-Fourth Session

Minutes of Seventh Ordinary Meeting, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand St, Cape Town on Wednesday the 18th May, 1938, at 8.15 P.M. Dr. R. H. Gray presided. There was a good attendance.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 20th April were read and confirmed.

No further nominations for membership had been received.

Mr H. E. Houghton delivered an address on Sir John Herschel's Cape observations. Herschel's method of sweeping the sky for nebulae and double stars was carefully described. The length of the sweeps was up to six hours each, when observing conditions were favourable. Halley's Comet was observed by him. Regular ~~at~~ meteorological observations were made, and the number and duration of meteors were recorded. The paper showed that Herschel carried out an extensive observing programme during his stay of 4 years at the Cape.

At the conclusion of the address, a vote of thanks to Mr. Houghton, moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Schoneveld, was passed with enthusiasm by the meeting.

Mr. W. Andrews informed the meeting of Mr. Long's illness, and moved that a letter of sympathy be written by the Hon Secretary, to Mr. Long. Members were further informed of a gift of 3 boxes of lantern slides from Dr. Halme, ^{Mr. Halme's married star} the secretary ~~was~~ ^{he} instructed to convey the thanks of the Cape Centre to the donor. Both motions were passed unanimously.

Dr. Gray introduced Dr. H. E. Wood, the Union Astronomer and a member of the Cape Centre, to the meeting.

Dr. Wood in a short speech informed members of recent developments in the establishment of

the Radcliffe Observatory at ^{Pretoria} ~~Johannesburg~~. Dr. Wood spoke of eclipses of the sun observed by him, and on the coming solar eclipse of 1940 in S. Africa. Dr. Wood further stated that the International Astronomical Union was to meet in S. Africa in 1944.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Wood for his address, proposed by Dr. Stoy, was passed with acclamation.

It was announced that Mr. J. G. Gwaryde would speak on "Navigational Problems" at the meeting in June. The meeting was then adjourned.

R. H. Stoy.