

## Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

## Twenty-Fifth Session.

Minutes of first Ordinary Meeting, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand Street, Cape Town on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1938, at 8.15 P.M. There was a good attendance. Mr. H. W. Schreyer was in the Chair.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1938, were read and confirmed.

The following gentlemen, whose nominations had been considered and passed by the Committee, were unanimously elected members: Mr. G. W. Reed Royal Observatory, Cape; Mr. H. M. Bale, Royal Observatory, Cape.

Dr. Hoy delivered a lecture, illustrated by diagrams and slides, on "The Evidence from Open Clusters on the Structure of the Galaxy". The terms used in measuring astronomical or stellar distances were explained, and the method of arriving at a star's distance once its spectral type and apparent magnitude were known. The term "Absolute Magnitude" was defined, and the means employed in deriving the mean parallax of a group of stars of the same spectral type, ~~from~~ was explained. A diagram on the screen showed clearly the evolution of stars from super-giants of low density to dwarfs of high density, and the accompanying light variations. The lecturer showed how the presence of an absorbing medium in space explained the discrepancy between observed numbers of stars at various distances from us, compared with the theoretical values.

A hearty vote of thanks for his interesting address was accorded Dr. Hoy by those present, at the conclusion of the lecture.

There being no further business, the meeting  
was declared closed.

HW Schmegele  
Chairman

21/9/38