

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

LXXV - fifth Session

Minutes of Second Ordinary Meeting held at Yorkshire House, Strand St., Cape Town, on Wednesday, 21st September, 1938, at 8.15 pm. The attendance was fairly good. Mr. H.W. Schonegevel was in the chair.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on August 17 were read and confirmed.

The following gentleman, whose nomination had been considered and passed by the Committee, was elected a member: Mr. Gustav Conradie, of Richfield, Stellenbosch. It was announced that nominations for membership had been received from Dr. H. Knox-Shaw and Mr. E.S. Williams, both of the Radcliffe Observatory, Portoria.

The chairman informed the meeting of the serious illness of Mr. Long, and it was decided to instruct the Secretary to convey the sympathy and good wishes of the meeting to Mr. Long and to express the hope that he would soon be well again.

The Secretary read a report received from Mr. J. Robinson of Elliot, on observations he had made of the planet Mercury on August 17, 18, 19, together with a covering letter from Mr. Watson, who pointed out that Mercury, when last seen by Mr. Robinson, was very near the horizon (just after sunset) and of stellar magnitude +1.8. The Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks and appreciation of the meeting to Mr. Robinson.

Mr. H.W. Schonegevel then gave an interesting lecture on "Some Cosmological Theories of the Past." He described the conceptions of primitive ^{theories of} man regarding the universe, and particularly the solar system, and discussed the growth of knowledge and closer understanding increasingly shown by the ~~theories~~ theories of the ancient Babylonians, Pythagoras, Ptolemy, ~~the Greeks~~, and Aristotle. The lecturer described in detail the systems of Copernicus and Tycho Brahe, and the three laws of planetary motion enunciated by Kepler; and further traced the growth of human understanding of the universe down to the theory of La Place. A number of unusual

diagrams, ~~from~~ pictures and slides illustrated the various theories with great success.

Dr. Stoy and Mr. Houghton spoke in appreciation of the lecture and the meeting, expressed ~~to~~ its ~~at~~ gratitude to Mr. Schoneveld for a very interesting evening.

There being no further business, the meeting then closed.

19/10/98

W Schoneveld