

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-seventh Session

Minutes of Third Ordinary meeting held at the Royal Observatory at 8.15 P.M. on Wednesday the 16th October 1940.

Dr Jackson presided. A large number of members and friends were present, as well as visiting astronomers from Australia and Pretoria.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meetings held on the 21st August and 11th September were read and confirmed.

Dr Jackson informed the meeting that the Einstein effect could not be verified from the plates taken during the total eclipse at Calvernia, as they were heavily fogged.

Dr. Allen^{of Australia} was introduced to the meeting, and gave a short account of his work during the eclipse. Dr. Allen had investigated the quality of the light emitted from the corona and chromosphere, particularly near the beginning of totality and at the end of the total phase.

Dr. Stoy exhibited on the screen some slides made from the eclipse plates taken at Calvernia. Some prominences at the vertex of the sun, and the ~~the~~ polar plumes were clearly seen.

Capt. Cameron-Lewan ~~had~~ handed round for inspection some enlargements of photographs taken by him during the eclipse. The Captain gave details of focal length, exposure, and equipment used.

An excellent record of the eclipse and of the landscape during the total phase was shown as a colour film on the screen by Mr. Fisher. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

Mr. Higgs gave a short description of the experiments made during the eclipse to test the effect of the eclipse on wireless reception.

The color film was shown ~~over~~ again, after which Mr. Schmegevel gave his impressions of the eclipse as seen from Cape Town. The clearness of the atmosphere before the greatest phase was emphasized.

The Hon. Secretary read to the meeting descriptions of the eclipse received from Mr. Forbes, Mr. Houghton, and Miss Troughton.

Mr. Forbes had looked for the Zodiacal light during totality, but had failed to observe any sign of it.

Mr. Houghton and Miss Troughton had viewed the eclipse from Three Sisters, and agreed that no shadow-bands were seen, although these were a conspicuous phenomenon at Calvinia, and had been observed at Cape Town.

Messrs Simentoff, Neres, Hirst and Grayde gave descriptions of their observations. Mr. Simentoff said that including Mercury, eight stars were seen during totality. Mr. Neres had observed shadow bands at sunrise on the walls of his house at Paarl. Mr. Hirst said that his two children had observed the shadow bands in Cape Town during greatest phase. Mr. Grayde observed the eclipse at Beaufort West. The drop in temperature during totality was noted, and found to be only 2° F.

After Dr. Jackson had replied to some questions put by Mr. Simentoff, the meeting was adjourned at 22 20.

J. Jackson