

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-ninth Session.

Minutes of Third Ordinary Meeting of the Session held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday the 14th October 1942 at 8.15 P.M. The attendance was fair. Dr. Stoy presided.

In the absence of the Hon. Secretary Mr. Krumm read the minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th September 1942, which were confirmed.

Dr. Jackson gave an interesting address on the life and work of Edmund Halley.

Halley's interest in Astronomy started in his days at school, and his first work consisted of the determination of accurate star positions for the Southern stars. His observations were taken at the island of St Helena. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1678, and later became one of the Secretaries.

Halley predicted the date of return of the comet that bears his name. In 1703 he was appointed Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, and in 1720 he became Astronomer Royal at Greenwich. He was the first to realize that the transit of Venus afforded an opportunity for determining the solar parallax.

At the conclusion of the address a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker.

This concluded the business for the evening.

1942 Nov 11

J. Jackson