

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAPE CENTRE HELD AT THE SAAO ON WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL MCMLXXXIII.

At the last meeting, 27 members and 7 visitors were present, and apologies for absence were received from Messers Parsons, Simonhoff and Churms. The speaker for the evening was the Chairman, who gave a slide show of the Voyager spacecraft's mission to Jupiter, Pioneer 10 and 11's encounter <sup>1&11</sup> with Saturn and Mariner 10's rendezvous with Venus. First of all, very detailed and interesting pictures of the 4 Galilean moons of Jupiter were shown. Ganymede and Callisto were heavily cratered and icy, while Io actually had fewer craters. Some of the close-ups of Io revealed volcanoes of a gigantic size erupting and shooting out sulphur. Europa was smaller and ~~had~~ two exhibited a large cracks on its icy surface. Jupiter itself was huge and had large active belts within which were various ovals and also the huge two-earth-sized red-spot. A very thin ring was also discovered around the planet, and some photographs revealed ~~to~~ details of up to 4 km in diameter. The Pioneer encounters of Saturn were less spectacular, ~~and~~ and really just pathfinders for the following Voyager space-crafts. These discovered that Saturn did have a ~~large~~ magnetic field, and also clear gaps <sup>plus</sup> between the rings. Photographs of Titan were also taken, revealing Methane bands. ~~We~~ A series of slides of the Mariner encounter of Venus were then shown; taken in the Infra Red, visible and Ultra-Violet wavelengths, emission spectra of SO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> ~~were~~ were detected. There ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~few~~ details on the planet itself, as the extremely dense cloudy atmosphere ~~blotted~~ <sup>opaque</sup> ~~the~~ planet out covered the whole planet, giving it a white colour. The meeting then closed for tea and biscuits.

Signed as correct — M. K. N.

(Chairman.)