

minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Royal Observatory on Monday 16th August 1926 at 8 pm.

Present Dr Spence Jones (President) in the Chair, Capt Cameron-Swan, Dr Halm, Messrs Cox, Forbes, Kearny, McIntyre, Smith & Houghton (Honorary Secretary). Mr. Johnson was absent through ill-health.

alternates The Secretary reported that the following alternates had been duly appointed:— Mr Cox for Mr Forbes.
Mr Kearny for Mr. Eaton.
He had suggested to Mr Jackson that Mr Forbes would be willing to continue as his alternate: no reply had been received. It had also been arranged for Capt Cameron-Swan (now a member of Council) to continue as alternate for Mr Reid, & for Mr McIntyre to represent Mr. Long.

minutes The minutes of the meetings of 28th June & 14th July were read and confirmed: a verbal alteration was made in the first minute.

Correspondence The Secretary laid on the table the letters received & replies of those written since the last meeting. The following were considered:
Letter from Capt E. B. Stephenson of 25 June sending 9/- for Vol. I of the Journal & withdrawing his name as a subscriber owing to his having to travel in future.
Letter from Mr W. J. Forbes of 10th July notifying his election as President of the Natal Astronomical Soc^y and also as a F.R.A.S.
Letter from Mr Woosell of 22 July sending the Variable Star Section records in his possession.

The Report of the Johannesburg Centre for 1925-26 was also read.

Financial position The Treasurer read the financial statement to date reporting a balance in hand of £12.5.11. The Secretary read extracts from correspondence with the Johannesburg Centre whose financial statement for 1925-26 had included ~~an~~ an item of £2.7.3 as paid to headquarters which, in spite of reminders, had been sent too

late to appear in the Society's financial statement for that period. It also appeared that the total received by that Centre from subscriptions was £23 2.6, of which one half was £11.11.3, whereas only £11.0.9 had been sent to headquarters. The Secretary was instructed to ask for the remaining sum of 10/6 to be sent.

The President and Treasurer appended their signatures to a letter to the Weymouth Branch of Barclays Bank who desired to be kept informed of the names of the principal officers of the Society.

Director of
Observing section

Cornet Section: Mr Reid was reappointed Director. The Secretary was instructed to write informing Mr Reid, thanking him for his past services, conveying the Council's best wishes for his restoration to health.

Mass Section: Dr. Moor was reappointed Director. The Secretary was instructed to write informing Dr Moor & thanking him for his past services.

Letter Section: After discussion it was decided that as this Section appeared to have little support from members it was not worth while to appoint a Director: no appointment was therefore made.

Variable Star Section: Mr. Smith states that owing to pressure of business he wished to resign from the Directorship though he would continue his observing. Mr Smith was thanked for his services & his resignation was accepted with regret. After consideration the Council appointed as Director Mr. G.E. Enser who it was understood would be willing to undertake the duties.

Discussion took place as to whether the records of the Section should be kept at headquarters, but it was felt desirable that the Director should hold the records; it being understood by him that they were the exclusive property of the Society.

Editor

Dr. Spence Jones was reappointed Editor

Librarian

Some discussion arose as to storing the books in the possession of the Society. While it was desired that members should have access to them, it was stated that there was no room for them in the cupboard used by the Cape Centre at 35 Wake Street. Suggestions were made that the Public Library, the University, or the British Medical Assoc. (as owners of the rooms) might look after the books, or alternatively that if the books could be kept at Wake Street the caretaker and one or two members of Council should have keys, so that volumes could be exchanged more frequently than at the monthly meetings. It was finally agreed that one member should be responsible for the custody of the library, and on Mr Forbes agreeing and being willing to keep the books at his office, he was appointed Librarian.

Report of Journal Committee

The Secretary reported the matter in hand for the next Journal. Mr Schouler's ^{lecture} ~~paper~~ on the Structure of the Atom, of which the manuscript had been furnished; a paper by Dr. P. Strachan on Sunspots; and a description by Mr. Forbes of a folding tripod stand for a telescope; also the Annual Reports of the Society + Centres; Observing Sections, etc. The following books were in hand for review: "The Graphic Construction of Eclipses + Occultations" (Rugg); "Meteor" (Olivier); "Stellar Atmospheres" (Miss Payne); and "The Earth + the Stars" (Abbott). An ordinary note on the late Mrs. G. A. Champion was approved.

New Journal Committee

The following were reappointed as the Journal Committee; Messrs Cox, Long, McIntyre + the Secretary. They were instructed to proceed (in consultation with the Editor) as early as possible with the publication of the next Journal. The same printers should be employed.

Next issue of Journal to Associates

The question was raised of the desirability of supplying associates with free copies of the Journal. As this was a contentious matter and would necessitate an amendment of By-law 9, it was decided to postpone further consideration till the next meeting.

Members in arrears

The Secretary stated that he had asked each Centre to supply, in conformity with By-law 3, a list of any persons more than two years in arrears with their subscriptions. No reply had been received from the Cape Centre, but the Johannesburg Centre had notified the names of two members, so in arrears + the Council decided that registered letters be sent to those members informing them of their position under Art. XVII (iii) of the Constitution.

The meeting then terminated.

G. Spencer Jones