

Astronomical Society of South Africa

Minutes of Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the ~~star~~ Society was held at the Royal Observatory, Observatory on Wednesday the 23rd July 1941. Dr. Jackson was in the Chair. The attendance was fair.

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Monday the 23rd September 1940, were read and confirmed.

The Financial Statement prepared by Mr. Turner and read by Mr. Schonegevel showed a balance of £49² 18² 10².

The Annual Report of the Council was read by the Hon. Secretary and adopted by the meeting.

As only sufficient nominations to fill the offices and for membership of Council had been received, the following were declared elected for the year 1941-42.

President: Dr. H. Knox-Shaw.

Vice-Presidents: Canon Ford, Dr. Jackson, Capt. Cameron-Shaw.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Menzies.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. B. G. Turner.

Members of Council: Messrs Andrews, Mackenzie, Krumm, Mumford, Houghton, and Dr. van den Bos.

The Report of the Planetary Section presented by Canon Ford, was read to the meeting by Mr. E. H. Tibbitts.

The Comet Section Report presented by Mr. A. J. J. Forbes and read by Mr. Krumm, showed that three comets had been discovered in South Africa during the past year, two of these by members of the Society: one by Mr. R. P. de Kock, and the other by Dr. J. S. Paraskewopoulos.

The Variable Star section Report presented by Mr. H. E. Houghton, was read by Mr. Simenthoff, and showed that a considerable amount of observing in this section had been done during the year.

Dr. Jackson moved that a letter of appreciation and thanks be sent to the directors of the observing

sections for their annual reports and their work during the past year. The meeting concurred.

Canon Ford's Presidential Address was read by the Hon. Secretary.

In the Introductory Remarks Canon Ford paid a tribute to the work done by the late Dr. Strömer, a former Member of the Society, among the hepers at Botshelo. The year had been a fruitful one for astronomy in South Africa. A total eclipse of the Sun had been seen under ideal conditions, and three comets had been discovered in South Africa. One of these comets, Comet de Kock, was the brightest seen since 1910.

The Presidential Address was on the planet "Venus". Canon Ford said that owing to the intense light reflected from the planet, surface markings were very difficult to detect, so that astronomers are still uncertain of the time it takes Venus to make a revolution around its axis. The inclination of the axis to the ecliptic was also uncertain.

The arguments for and against ~~the~~ Venus having an atmosphere were given. Canon Ford supposed that the surface of Venus was covered with volcanic ash, which would account for the intense brightness of the planet.

A vote of thanks to Canon Ford for his interesting paper was passed with acclamation by those present.

This concluded the business for the evening

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H.W. Schongweel
Chairman