

Astronomical Society of South Africa.

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday the 24th July, 1946 at 8 P.M. Dr. Hoy presided. The attendance was good.

An apology for absence had been received from Mr. D. G. McIntyre.

Dr. Hoy asked members to stand for a few moments as a mark of respect for the passing during the year of six members of long standing: Mr. J. W. Aiken, Mrs. E. A. Boulase, Canon E. B. Ford, Captain J. S. Grayde, Mr. C. H. W. Road-knight and Dr. H. E. Wood.

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 25th July 1945 were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer's Report, read by Mr. Krumm, showed a balance in hand of £65.15.0 at 30 June 1946. The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. Krumm, sec. by Mr. Limenthoff.

The Report of the Council was read by the Hon. Secretary and adopted by the meeting on the motion of Mr. Landers, seconded by Mr. Tremblath.

The adoption of the Observational Report, read by Mr. Schirach, was moved by Mr. Hirst, seconded by Mr. Burrell.

Dr. Hoy presented Mr. de Kock with the Comet Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, in recognition of the discovery of a comet in 1941.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted: That, subject to ratification by the Annual General Meetings of the constituent Centres of the Society, members residing more than 25 miles from a Centre shall be elected members of the Society, and not as members of the nearest Centre.

The following officers were declared elected for the session 1946-47: President, Mr. W. P. Hirst.

Vice-Presidents: Dr. Hoy, Dr. Redman, Mr. E. C. Chubb.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Menzies.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Krumm.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. Orben

Members of Council: Dr. Jackson, Dr. Paraskevopoulos, Dr. Vanden
Bos, Messrs. Cousins, Mumford, Houghton, Forbes, and Dr. Knox-
Shaw.

Before reading the Presidential Address, Dr. May vacated the Chair which was taken by the incoming President, Mr. Hirst.

Dr. May's Presidential Address dealt with the Organization of Astronomy in South Africa. The introduction dealt with the value of the science in everyday life, in trigonometrical surveying, navigation, and the Time Service.

The astronomer has known for some years of the energy hidden in the atom, through his observation of the output of energy by the sun and stars.

In the study of the stars the physicist deals with enormous distances, masses, temperatures, and in space the most perfect vacuum.

The Union Government has always shown itself to be very helpful to astronomical enterprise in South Africa. The Union Observatory compares very favourably in size of instruments and equipment with the institutions of other countries of similar size.

Dr. May emphasized that Astronomy was dependent for its development on observations, and was an Observational Science.

The establishment and equipment of observatories in South Africa, ~~and~~ together with a short account of the work done by each one was given, as well as the required observations listed by the modern theoretical astronomer for the development of ~~modern~~ astronomical theory.

At the conclusion of the paper a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. May, those present showing their appreciation in the usual manner.

The meeting ended at 9.40 P.M. W.P. Hirst.
14/5/47.