

Astronomical Society of South Africa

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 25 July^{at 1951} at 8 P.M. Mr. Krumm presided. The attendance was good, about 40 people being present.

Mr. Krumm extended a hearty welcome to visitors present, and to Miss J. Robinson, a past member of the Society.

Minutes The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 26th July 1950 were read and confirmed.

The Financial Statement read by Mr. Orpen showed a balance of £129. Mr. Orpen said the balance did not show the true state of the Society's finances, as £10 was required for prizes for the Essay Competition, and about £30 was owing for 'Sky & Telescope'. Mr. Krumm thanked Mr. Orpen for his work as Hon. Treasurer during the year. The statement was adopted by the meeting.

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

Mr. Turner read the Cape Centre Annual Report.

The Meteor Section Report presented by Mr. Venter was read by the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Venter said that two new observers had joined the Section and were doing useful work, namely Messrs J. Botham and A. Morrisby.

578 meteors had been observed by the Section.

The Hon. Secretary was asked to convey the thanks of the Society to Mr. Venter for his work as Director of the ~~Variable Star~~^{Meteor} section.

The Variable Star Section Report, compiled by Mr. de Kock, showed a total of 7851 observations secured, of which 5773 were made by Mr. de Kock, 1053 by Mr. Bicknell, 361 by Mr. Morrisby, and 528 by Mr. Venter.

Miss Flux said that she was prepared to help in circularising country members with a view to them joining the observing sections.

Mr. Wahl offered to lecture on Astronomy in the country, provided the Society supplied him

with lantern slides.

The above two suggestions were to be brought to the notice of the incoming Council.

The Hon. Secretary reported that some members at Langbaansey wanted the Society to import Pyrex glass discs for mirror-grinding from America.

Messrs Borchards and Schirach said that provided that too large a mirror was not attempted, plate glass of 1 inch thickness was ideal for the purpose, a view endorsed by Prof. Le Roux.

Prof. Le Roux announced the results of the Essay Competition, and suggested that two consolation prizes be given to the two runners up. This was agreed to.

Prof. Le Roux said that in future competitions competitors ~~it~~ would be asked to state the reference books consulted by them in writing their essays, and suggested that some practical astronomy be done by some competitors, who should then be asked to write an essay on the results of and reduction of their observations.

The meeting thanked ^{Prof} ~~Mr~~ Le Roux for his work in connection with the competition.

Mr. Krumm spoke on Interstellar absorption matter in space, and the effect on the apparent magnitudes of stars.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Krumm at the conclusion of his address.

As only sufficient nominations to fill the offices and for members of Council had been received the following were declared elected for the session 1951-52:

President: Dr. A. D. Thackeray.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs Krumm and Bentley, Dr. Evans.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Menzies

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. Orpen

Members of Council: Mr. Finzer, Mr. Venter, Dr. Kirchoff.

Prof. Henzler, Mr. Finnis, Dr. May.

The meeting ended at 10.20 P.M.

A. Henzler Hon. Secretary
David S. Evans

23rd July 1952