

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 25th July 1956 at 8 P.M.

Apologies for absence had been received from Messrs Chilton and Linsenhoff.

Dr. Van den Bos presided. The attendance was good.

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 27th July 1955 were read and confirmed.

Dr. Van den Bos announced the result of the Essay Competition for Schools: 1st Prize: ^{Master} Pratt, 2 consolation prizes for Master Kuyper and Robinson.

The prizes in the form of cheques were handed to Pratt and Robinson who were present.

The first presentation of the Society's Gill Medal for meritorious work in Astronomy was made to Dr. Knox Shaw, with the citation: "The removal of the ~~Oxford~~ Redcliffe Observatory from Oxford to Pretoria and the installation of the 74-inch reflector occupied Dr. Knox-Shaw's attention for many years. The fruits of his vision and determination are now being reaped, and the value of the 74-inch reflector, strategically placed in the Southern Hemisphere, is universally acknowledged."

The financial statement read by Mr Orben showed a balance of £21 after all outstanding accounts were paid.

The following officers and Council for 1956-57 were declared elected:

President: Mr S C Venter

Vice-Presidents: Drs Stoy and Thackeray, Prof. Menzies

Members of Council: Dr. Evans, Prof. Cillie, Dr. Cousins
Dr. Feast.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Menzies

Hon Treasurer: Mr Orben

Hon. Auditors: Messrs Duncan and Johnston.

The Annual Report of Council for 1955-56 was read by the Hon. Secretary.

The Report said that it had been necessary to increase the subscription to two guineas and to charge new Members an entrance fee of one guinea from 1st July 1956, owing to increased costs of printing and of the journal 'Sky & Telescope'.

All the proposed changes in the Constitution were agreed to, members voting by postal ballot.

The reports of the observing sections were read by Mr. Knamm. The Planetary Section Report, prepared by Mr. Brickett, showed that considerable observing of the planets Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars had been done by Transvaal Centre members, who had also observed 258 occultations during the year. Mr. Venters' Meteor Section Report showed that 233 meteors had been observed. Mr. de Kock's Variable Star Section Report ~~said that~~ recorded a total of 6930 observations of 180 variables, of which Mr. de Kock obtained 5508.

The Hon. Secretary was asked to thank the Directors of the observing sections for their very encouraging reports.

The meeting ended at 9.15 P.M.

Attest

Hon Secretary

The Presidential Address was delivered by J. van den Bos, who chose as his subject "General catalogues of Double Stars," on which he is particularly qualified to speak, as he has been closely associated with this aspect of Astronomy over the past 30 years. The address was very much appreciated by the members present.

Twiss

Hon Sec. (atg)

R. H. Gray

24.7.57.