

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 24th. July 1957 at 8pm.

Dr. R. Stoy presided. About 25 people were present.
Apologies for absence were received from Mr Menzies
Duncan
Venter

The Minutes of the A.G.M., held 25 July 1956 read and confirmed.
The results of the Essay Competition were announced;
1st. prize---Master E.G.H. Oliver.
3rd. prize
shared by---Masters R. Gildenhuys &
A. Wood.

The standard did not justify the award of a 2nd. prize. A pleasing feature, however, was the increase in the number of centres from whom entries had been received.

The award of the Gill medal was made to Mr. W.P. Hirst for outstanding services to South African Astronomy as a computer, observer, writer and lecturer.

Mr. Hirst is an amateur with an absorbing profession and wide interests, but in spite of this he has become an astronomical computer of high standing and his contributions to our journal outnumber those of any other author, amateur or professional. Nor have his contributions been confined to M.N.A.S.S.A. He has computed orbits for several comets, about a dozen asteroids and some double stars. His articles on Orbits and Computing are worthy of the closest study. His observing has been concentrated on occultations and double stars. The work of Mr. Hirst is a demonstration of the level of achievement that can be attained by a gifted amateur.

The Annual Report of Council was read by the Hon. Secretary (actg.)
The Financial Statement for the year ended 30th. June 1957 was read by Mr. J.F.R. Linton, the acting treasurer. This disclosed a credit balance of R128-13-9, as at that date.

Reports of Observing Sections were read by Mr. Krumm, as follows:

Variable Star Section: Director-Mr. R. P. de Kock. This report disclosed that a total of 7858 ^{observed} ~~variable~~ stars were observed during the year.

Meteor Section: Director Mr S. Venter. This included mention a special ~~shower~~ meteor shower on Dec. 5th.

The following Officers and Council were declared ^{elect} ~~for~~ the session 1957/58.

President; Dr. M. W. Feast

Vice-President: Mr. S. C. Venter

Dr. R. H. Stoy

Mr. H. C. Lagerweij

Hon Secretary: Mr A. Menzies

" Treasurer: Mr. G. Orpen (with Mr. J. F. R. Linton as deputy)

Members of Council: Dr. D. S. Evans

Mr. M. J. Bester

Prof. J. M. LeRoux

Mr. J. Churms

Members representing individual Centres were still to be nominated by the Centres.

The address by the outgoing President, Mr Venter of Pretoria was read by Dr. Evans. The subject chosen was:- The Development of Meteor Astronomy. His interesting lecture, which gave listeners a clear picture of the manner in which observations were made, and the progress made during the past years, in this branch of Astronomy, was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.---The Chairman thanked Dr. Evans for reading the address, and pressed the thanks of all to Mr. Venter for preparing it, and for his work during the past year as Director of the Meteor Section.

Dr. Stoy expressed a word of welcome to Dr. Haffner of Hamburg, who was present, and asked him to be kind enough to address the meeting. Dr. Haffner thanked Dr. Stoy, and spoke briefly on his work in Germany, and his plans for his stay in South Africa.
Dr. Haffner was proceeding to the Boyden Station in Bloemfontein.

There being no further business, Dr. Stoy declared the meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

David S. Evans J. W. Orpen
24/7/58 (Actg) Secretary