

point, but at some time or other it must pass through this point. It is now considered that there are always large numbers of meteoric particles scattered round the orbit of a comet and moving in its orbit; so that whenever the Earth actually passes through the orbit of a comet meteoric showers are probable. If a diagram is drawn representing the orbit of comet 1866 (1) it will be found that the orbit of the comet intersects at its descending node the orbit of the Earth. It will also be found that the Earth passes the point of intersection about the 13th November in each year, and it is at this time that the Leonid meteors occur. On November 27th in each year the Earth crosses the track of the missing Biela's comet and the Andromedid meteors appear on that date.

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## Obituary.

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### MR. ALFRED BULL.

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By the death of Mr. Alfred Bull, older members of the Cape Centre will feel that they have lost a personal friend. Recently, owing to domestic ties, he was unable to attend the meetings of the Centre, but in earlier days his breezy, jovial presence always brought with it a feeling of cheer and good fellowship into the room.

Mr. Bull was one of the enthusiasts who helped to refloat the old Cape Astronomical Society in the days of the Great War. For some years he acted as its librarian. In that office he gave sterling and unobtrusive service. When funds were not available, he would have recourse to his own pocket. The Cape Centre's set of volumes of the British Astronomical Association's Journal was bound entirely at his expense; the pointer used at lectures was another of his gifts. When making any gift he invariably insisted on its anonymity. But the pointer is to be mounted and inscribed with his name "In Memory."

Mr. Bull sometimes contributed papers to the monthly meetings of the Centre. He was particularly interested in the scintillation of the fixed stars, and one of his papers was on this subject. In it he described his own observations and ideas. Other papers were on "Neptune," "Light," "The Zodiacal Light" and "Sunspots."

Mr. Bull died on June 6, 1930. The Society has lost a cheerful giver, an ardent astronomer and a splendid friend.