

## SOCIETY NOTICES

### OBITUARY

Hendon Egerton Houghton, M.B.E., F.R.A.S.  
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It is with sincere regret that we have to record the passing of one of the most active members of our Society, Hendon Egerton Houghton, M.B.E., F.R.A.S.

Mr. Houghton was born in England in 1892 and was educated at Whitgist School, Croydon. He came to this country in 1920, November, to join the staff of the High Commissioner's Office.

He became a member of the Cape Astronomical Association in the days before the link-up with the other Centres which formed the Astronomical Society of South Africa. From the beginning he took a keen interest in the work and the affairs of the Society and became its Secretary in 1923, an office which he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1930. In 1936 he was elected President and later served for several years as a member of Council.

His chief interest lay in the work of the Variable Star Section of which he became Director on the retirement of Mr. G.E. Ensor in 1934, an office which he held up to the time of his death. He made more than 10,000 observations, returning as many as 2400 a year on several occasions. In continuing the work of variable star observing in South Africa, so ably pioneered by the late Dr. A.W.Roberts, no one has done more for the advancement and the creation of enthusiasm for the Science than Mr. Houghton. It was during his work on variable stars that he discovered Comet 1932b Houghton-Ensor.

Variable Stars was his chief interest but there was another side to his abilities which many of us came to know and to appreciate. His papers and lectures to the Society were always a joy to listen to and by virtue of his wide reading and extensive study of astronomical subjects, his contributions to the Journal and later to the Monthly Notes make very useful and delightful reading at any time.

To know Mr. Houghton was to love him and we cannot do better than try and carry on the useful work which he had so much at heart.

We extend to his widow, his mother and relatives our sincere sympathy in his passing.

A.F.I.F.