

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank, on Monday, 11th August 1924 at 8pm.

Present — Dr. Halm (President) in the Chair, Messrs Cox, Long, Reid, Schmegevel, Smith, & Houghton (Hon. Secretary). Messrs Jearry & McIntyre were also present.

Alternates — The Secretary reported that Mr W.B. Jackson had appointed Mr A.F.J. Forbes as his alternate. The names of Messrs Jearry & McIntyre had been suggested respectively to Messrs Stevens & Worsell as their alternates, but their formal appointment as such had not yet been received.

Minutes — The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and, with a small correction, were confirmed.

A member of the Council spoke strongly regarding the delays which had occurred in obtaining answers to letters from the Council addressed to its Johannesburg officials, and in the forwarding of Reports, etc. required by the Constitution. It was felt ~~that~~ by the Council that these delays should not be attributed to any lack of interest in the Society's welfare and it was hoped that on representations being made, the difficulties would be avoided in future.

Correspondence — The Secretary laid on the table the letters received and copies of those written by him since the last meeting. The following were considered:—

Letters of 24th & 25th July from, and of 29th July to, the Secretary of the Johannesburg Centre regarding the payment of the amount due to headquarters in respect of subscriptions collected during 1923-24. A sum of £1.1.0 was still outstanding. The Secretary was instructed to urge upon the Johannesburg Secretary the importance of following the requirements of the Constitution,

so as to simplify the work of the Treasurers of the Centre and of the Society. The following note was ordered to be appended to the Society's Financial Statement for 1923-24 when printed in the Journal:

"Note. This balance does not include an amount of £4.11.9. due from the Johannesburg Centre in respect of subscriptions collected during 1923-24." Some discussion ensued regarding the desirability or otherwise of presenting the Society's Annual Financial Statement in the form of a Balance Sheet. This question will be considered again at the end of the present session.

See page 69

Letter of 24th July to D. Lewis regarding the possibility of publishing in the Journal some of the drawings made by members of the Mass Section, to which no reply had yet been received.

The Secretary referred to a letter from Dr Roberts expressing appreciation of his re-election as a Vice President. The Council hoped that Dr Roberts would send an article for the Journal.

Letter of 2nd August from Mr E. Zelle (member) regarding his subscription. The Secretary was instructed to forward to Mr Zelle copies of all the Journals, etc. which he had not received and to inform him that the balance of the sum of £1 now sent would be placed to his credit in the books of the Cape Centre. Extra copies of the "Sundial" book could be sent to him if desired.

"Bulletin of the Lyons Observatory" and "Scientia" with appeals for subscriptions. The Secretary was instructed to reply that it was regretted that no funds were available for this purpose.

Financial  
Position

The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £9.10.1: this did not include the donation

of £5 from the Natal Astronomical Association nor the balance of £4.11.9 due from the Johannesburg Centre. in respect of 1923-24.

Directors  
of Observing  
Sections

Comet Section: Mr. Reid was thanked and reappointed Director.

Mass Section: Dr. Merz was ordered to be thanked and was reappointed Director.

Meteor Section: Mr. McIntyre was thanked and reappointed Director.

Variable Star Section: After discussion, the Council appointed Mr. W.H. Smith as Director.

The Secretary was instructed to express the Council's thanks to Mr. Worsell for the services he had rendered, and to ask him to send to the new Director, after completing his Report for 1923-24, all the papers, etc., belonging to the Section which he had.

Editor

Mr. Wood was reappointed Editor. The Secretary was instructed to convey the Council's thanks to Mr. Wood for his services.

Librarian

The Secretary was reappointed to act as Librarian.

Journal  
Committee

(1) Report

The Secretary read a list of the matters for the Journal in the hands of the Editor and of the Journal Committee.

The Council were anxious that, as both funds and material were available, the next Journal should be issued at the earliest possible date. The Council hoped that Mr. Mackenzie would send a contribution to the Journal.

(2) New  
Committee

The following were appointed as the Journal Committee for the present session: Messrs Cox, Long, McIntyre and the Secretary.

Special  
Sub-Committee

This Sub-Committee was not reappointed, but Mr. Cohen and the Secretary would continue to

deal with the disposal of Dr. Halm's booklet on the "Universal Sundry". A copy of the book and one of the completed Sundrys had been taken to England by a Mr. V. Lowinger for exhibition at Wembley if possible.

International  
Astronomical  
Union

Dr Halm gave an account of the formation of the Union, to which the Government of South Africa was an adhering organisation and paid an annual subscription of £30. He stated that H.M. Astronomer, Mr. Spencer Jones, was anxious that some steps, as suggested by the late President, Dr Jones, should be taken. After considerable discussion, the Council appointed Dr Halm and Messrs Spencer Jones, Long and Reid as a Committee to consider the best means of interesting the Royal Society of S. Africa, with a view to ultimately approaching the Union Govt. and thus helping South Africa to become a useful and practical member of the Union by having the advice of a National Committee. The question of the above contribution of £30 was referred to, and the Committee were reminded that no action calculated to involve the Astronomical Society in any expenditure could be contemplated. The meeting then terminated.

J Halm