

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank, on Monday, 24th November 1924 at 8 p.m.

Present Dr. Italm (President) in the Chair, Messrs Spencers Jones, Cox, Forbes, Jearcy, Long, McIntyre, Reid, Schoneveld, Smith and Houghton (Honorary Secretary)

Alternates The Secretary reported that Messrs Stevens and Worsell had appointed as their respective alternates Messrs Jearcy + McIntyre.

Minutes The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.
The Secretary stated that the balance of the contribution due to headquarters from the Johannesburg Centre in respect of 1923-24 had come to hand, and that the Variable Star Section Report for the same ~~year~~ period had been received in time for inclusion in the recent Journal.

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:
Letter dated 14th August to Dr. Roberts and his reply of 18th idem regarding a possible article for the Journal.
Letter dated 23rd July from Mr. A. Stevens, Quebec, regarding the need for the invention of new astronomical instruments. No acknowledgment was considered necessary.
Letter of 16th August^{to} and reply of 22nd idem from the Secretary of the Johannesburg Centre, regarding the balance of contribution due to headquarters, and stating that no member of that Centre was two years in arrears with his subscription.
Letter of 19th August from the Netherlands Astronomical Society. The Secretary was instructed to send the Society copies of Journals 1 and 2, + to state that there was no objection to their printing (with due acknowledgment) the paper which Mr Reid had written for the next Journal on comet-searching.

Letter dated 25th August from the Secretary to the New South Wales branch of the B.A.A. The Council directed that an acknowledgment should be sent.

Letter of 2nd October from H.C. Belsman, Ltd., Amsterdam asking for a list of the members of the Society, with reply of 31st October.

Journal
Committee

The Secretary reported that 300 copies of Journal Nov. had been received and distributed as follows:- 95 to members; 60 free list; 6 to Johannesburg Centre for sale; 35 to Natal Astronomical Association; and 6 sold. Owing to the extra cost of the Journal, the Committee had decided that the printing of only 300 copies could be undertaken.

The Secretary read a letter ~~from~~ ^{to} the Natal Astronomical Association of 30th September offering to supply Journals to their members in consideration of their recent donation of £5, with answer of 20th October stating that there were 60 members of the Association, and the Secretary's reply. After discussion the Council confirmed the Secretary's action in supplying the Association with 35 copies of the Journal, and he was instructed to inform them that the reserve of Journals in hand would not permit of the Society supplying more than 15 extra copies, making 50 in all.

The Secretary referred to a letter of 16th August from Mr Wood, from which it appears that the S. Afr. Assocn. for the Adv. of Science were not willing to allow the Society to print Dr Holm's address at their recent meeting until it had appeared in the Association's "Proceedings."

The Secretary read a letter dated 3rd October from Mr E. Jelle regarding the supply of Journals to a Mr. ^{W.} Levitt who had sent 18/- in payment. The necessary

action had been taken.

The Secretary referred to the matter in hand for the next Journal, comprising papers on Jupiter by Mr. Long, comet - passing by Mr. Reid, reports of the recent eclipse of the moon, a paper by Mr. Mackenzie, and certain reviews of books.

Financial
Position
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The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £21.14.4 but accounts for £14.9.3 for printing, and 4/10 for Treasurer's postage and stationery were unpaid. He was instructed to pay Messrs Townsend £20 on account and to inform them that the balance would be paid as soon as funds were available. The Council approved the expenditure of 17/6 for printing forms for the use of the Variable Star Section. No remittance had been received from the Johannesburg Centre in respect of the September quarter, 1924.

International
Astronomical
Union.
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After introductory remarks by Dr. Halm, Mr. Spencer Jones gave an interesting statement describing the formation of the Union, mentioning the purposes, conditions of membership, contribution (based on the population of the country concerned) and the Union's expenditure on publications and international services. The adhering organisation in each country pays the subscription; the National Committee formed in that country is not necessarily controlled by the respective adhering organisation. The Union meets every 3 years (at home in 1922 and at Cambridge in July 1925). A South African National Committee could propose questions on any subject, nominate delegates to attend the meetings and vote, and would promote generally the progress of astronomy in S. Africa.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Jones of the 29th July, and the Report of Mr. Spencer Jones's committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council.

After considerable discussion regarding the

composition of the proposed National Committee, and the method of providing for the representation of the future American Observatories in South Africa, and with a slight verbal amendment, the adoption of the draft Report was moved by Mr. McIntyre, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously accepted.

See Note
below!

Dr. Halim, as President of the Society, agreed to approach the Royal Society of South Africa in the sense desired.

Ballot paper
and nomination
papers

The Secretary reported that no objection had been received to the ballot, ^{held} in July last for the present Council, and that in accordance with the Constitution the ballot papers had been destroyed. The nominations were recorded in the minutes, and the nomination papers had also been destroyed.

Universal
Sundial

The Secretary stated that sufficient copies of Dr. Halim's booklet had been sold to repay the amount of £34.4.4 advanced by the guarantor, and a small balance was in hand to be divided in due course between Dr. Halim and the Society's funds.

The meeting then terminated.

B. Spencer Lane

1925 March 31

Notes by Secretary

Suggested composition of National Committee

Union Astronomer

HM Astronomer

Director of Trigonometrical Survey

3 representatives of Royal Society of S. Africa

3 " " S. African Assoc. for the Adv. of Science

6 " " Astronomical Society of S. Africa