

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosbank, on Wednesday 4th December 1929 at 8 pm.

Present

Dr. Stevens Jones (Vice Pres.) in the chair; Capt. Cameron-Jones, Messrs Burrell, Forbes, Jackson, Long, Selousgood & Houghton (Hon. Sec.)
Apologies for absence were received from Messrs Leary, Mason, McIntyre & Smith.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed. Mr Jackson stated he had received notice that his appointment as a member of the South African National Committee in Astronomy had been approved.

Correspondence

The Secretary laid on the table the letters received & copies of those written since the last meeting. A letter dated 11th October from the Secretary of the Johannesburg Centre was referred to.

Financial Position

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary read the financial statement dated 2nd December showing balance at that date of £ 33.5.8. Mr Long stated that the total cost of the Conversazione held on 17th July 1929 was £ 16.4.6, the whole of which had been met by donations. He had also received a donation of £ 1 through the Mackenzie out of which a block for the next proposal was being provided. There was an adjusting payment of £ 3.15.0 to be made to the Treasurer, bringing the balance in hand to £ 37.0.8. The Council's warm thanks were expressed to Mr Long for his good work in arranging that the cost of the Conversazione did not fall on the Society's ordinary funds.

General Committee

The Secretary stated he had written for a review copy of "The Universe Around Us" by Jeans: he was

instructed to write similarly for a copy of "Source Book in Astronomy" by Shapley & Howarth. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Cox who was willing to assist with the Journal so far as he could.

Printers

Mr. Jay stated that the Clyde Printing Works had tendered to provide 350 copies of the Journal at 13/6 per page (the former printers supplied 300 copies at that figure); with no extra charge for art paper which it was mentioned by Capt. Anderson was not required and was not so desirable as good ordinary paper; no increase for table-top matter. The Council approved the Journal Committee's action in accepting this tender. There had been delay owing to the change of printers but the Journal was in type and it was hoped to distribute it shortly. The photo of Port Blair would be inserted loosely in each of the first 300 copies. The Council approved the addition of the Argentine Astronomical Society to the free list and the supply of 35 copies of the next Journal to the Natal Astronomical Association. It was thought that copies of the Journal might be communicated personally to the various South African newspapers to endeavour to secure its being reviewed therein.

Library

Mr. Jackson enquired whether it wd. be possible for members in Johannesburg to borrow books from the Society's library. After discussion it was arranged that he should go with the Librarian and select six books which he would take to Johannesburg. The Secretary of that Centre would arrange for their circulation and should see that they were returned in say six months. A further supply could be sent later.

Seats on Council

Mr. Jackson expressed the great appreciation of the Johannesburg Centre of the number of Offices on the Council which had been allotted each year, sometimes, he thought in excess of the number to which they were strictly

entitled. Mr and Mrs. Forbes also thanked the Secretary for supplying typed minutes of the Council meetings which were of advantage both to alternates & their principals.

Radcliffe
Observatory
—

The Chairman stated that the Radcliffe Trustees had decided to transfer the Radcliffe Observatory from Oxford to South Africa, and Dr Stevenson and later Dr. Knox-Shaw were coming to select a site. It was suggested that Dr Stevenson might be able to meet the members of the Society.

The meeting then terminated.

G. Spencer Jones

1930 March 17.