

from time to time by the Scientific Secretary and constellations allotted, and it is hoped that many more members will take it up next session. Another feature of this session has been the Association of Colleges in India with the Society and twelve of these institutions have now joined. Literature was issued to them and the ground work has been laid for further activity next session. Difficulty is felt by the Council in ascertaining the wants and also the capabilities of the various colleges. Useful discussion has, however, taken place on this matter, and the colleges have been addressed in order to achieve the objects of the scheme. Connected with this scheme, a silver medal has been instituted by the Society to be awarded for the best essay by a student of any of the Associated Colleges. The essays are to be received by July 31st, 1917. Members may like to know that a chance has occurred of obtaining a 9-inch reflecting telescope for the Society, and that the Council are in course of negotiations about this. It is proposed to use this instrument regularly, and to arrange for visitors' evenings in the clear season.

It is satisfactory to find that the Society has now succeeded in placing its finances on a working basis. It will be remembered that the Journals of the Society had to be a good deal curtailed some time ago owing to shortage of funds. It has now been found possible to relax this, and the present issue is the first of the enlarged numbers. It perhaps appropriately coincides with the appointment of our new Editor to whom all success in his task.

H. G. TOMKINS.

*12th July 1917.*

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**A short report on the work of the Organisation for the search for new objects in the sky by the Scientific Secretary.**

It was proposed in July 1916 to organise a systematic search by members of the Society, throughout the year for new objects, such as new stars, comets, etc., and for this purpose to allot constellations every month to those who would assist. The search was to be made with the naked eye or field glasses, and maps and other data to be supplied to each observer by the Society. I was deputed to take the matter in hand and was requested to see that standard maps were prepared in the least possible time. Members were also invited to join in this movement, and in a short time there were

23 willing members on the list. The preparation of the maps took about four months to complete, and in November they were sent to the members. It is well known that a constellation can be followed, from rising to setting, for about three months. So it was arranged that the maps issued to members were to be called back at the end of the third month, together with the reports of observations, if any, on them, new maps of other suitable constellations being supplied in their places.

The system has been working pretty satisfactorily and up to date no less than 33 constellations have been examined. Although nothing new has been discovered, yet the earnestness with which some of the members, particularly the schools, have taken up the work, gives hope of the work assuming a scientific importance in the near future.

A word here would not be out of place as I have found that most of the members return the charts within a fortnight or so with round marks about the stars which were visible to the naked eye. They have, I think, overlooked the fact that observations are to be repeated for the whole time the constellation is visible. The object is not to make a cursory observation but to watch the constellation for new objects. It is to be remembered that stars and comets spring up into existence and have to be looked-for, and these observations have a value, if done with care, even if no new discovery is made. On the whole the work has been satisfactory, and it is hoped that the Society will be able to justify its existence in a short time.

P. C. BOSE.

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### Library.

THE Library contains over 200 volumes of useful books on Astronomy and allied subjects, besides periodicals, maps, etc. It is kept open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 P.M., and the Assistant Librarian is in attendance. From October 16th to June 17th, 26 books were issued to the members, of which 20 remain to be returned to date.

During the same period only 7 members visited the Library and made use of the books contained therein. It is hoped, however, that members will make greater use of the facilities afforded in future.