

The Journal
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SESSION 1910-1911.

[No. 4.

**Report of Meeting of the Society held
on Tuesday, the 31st January 1911.**

H. G. TOMKINS, F.R.A.S., *President, in the Chair.*

P. N. MUKHERJI, M.A., F.S.S., *Secretary.*

The Monthly Meeting of the Astronomical Society of India was held in the Imperial Secretariat Buildings (ground floor) on Tuesday, the 31st January 1911, at 5 p.m.

The meeting was opened by the President, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, several new members were enrolled. The President then announced that the Comptroller-General had kindly placed a rent-free room with a small verandah in the Secretariat Buildings at the disposal of the Society, where the Library and Reading-room would be located, and a vote of thanks to the Comptroller-General was carried with applause. It was then announced that a special General Meeting would be held at 4-45 p.m., just before the next ordinary Monthly Meeting on the 28th February, to pass Bye-laws for the regulation of the Library and to amend certain other Bye-laws. The President then remarked that two suggestions had recently been made to the Council, who had accepted both: the first in connection with four in-door and out-door classes to be held for beginners by Mr. Rakshit, the dates and places to be notified later; the second that the Society should arrange for a course of free lectures to be held in the Town Hall, which the public would be welcome to attend. Details of these lectures would be issued later,

The election of the following members was then confirmed:—

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| 1. SUDENDRA NATH BASU, ESQ., B.A. | 11. RAJA SREE RAJA A. V. JUGGA RAO
BAHADURU GARU, F.R.A.S., F.R.MET.S.,
F.R.C.I., F.M.C., F.A.S., FFC. |
| 2. RAJ CHANDRA CHANDRA, ESQ., M.A. | 12. A. N. METTAM, ESQ. |
| 3. DR. PROMOTHA NATH NANDI, L.M.S. | 13. MRS. F. C. SMALLWOOD. |
| 4. G. LEATHEM, ESQ., I.C.S. | 14. JATINDRA NATH MUKHERJEA, ESQ. |
| 5. NARENDRA NATH BASU, ESQ. | 15. ROMA PROSAD ROY, ESQ., B.A. |
| 6. DINA NATH DUTT, ESQ., M.A. | 16. S. J. KNOLLES, ESQ. |
| 7. N. N. BLOMEFIELD, ESQ. | 17. HARI SADHAN MUKHERJEA, ESQ., M.A. |
| 8. BIPIN BEHARI BASU, ESQ. | 18. R. H. D. LACEY, ESQ. |
| 9. KRISHNA CHANDRA DEY, ESQ. | 19. A. K. TAYLOR, ESQ. |
| 10. HARAN CHANDRA BANERJEA, ESQ.,
M.A., B.L. | |

Mr. Rakshit, Director of the Meteor Section, read a note kindly sent in by His Highness the Maharajah of Jalawar on a brilliant Meteorite observed, and also gave the result of the Meteor observations of the Section.

The President, in returning thanks to Mr. Rakshit and the Maharajah of Jalawar, remarked that the Society had certainly secured a very energetic member in His Highness, this being the second paper of its kind contributed by him. He had evidently taken some pains and trouble over the calculations of distances in the paper, which were extremely interesting, and supported also by Mr. Rakshit's figures.

Mr. Holmes.—I should just like to ask one question about Meteors. Some time ago, about a month, I noticed a photograph of the course of a Meteor in the *Times of India*; I have not the photograph with me, but have written to the Editor to ask whether he will be willing to let me see and have the use of the plate. This picture showed the path of the Meteor as being zig-zag. I should like to know if anybody has studied this. I have always been under the impression that the path of a Meteor would be straight, but this one zig-zagged very much like a flash of lightning.

The President.—I took a photograph of one of the Leonid Meteors of 1899, and on examining the result closely, I found a dark line coursed down the streak, and the latter was fairly straight. Perhaps Dr. Harrison could tell us whether the conditions of the atmosphere had anything to do with the zig-zag appearance noticed by Mr. Holmes.

Dr. Harrison.—The only thing that occurs to me is that it might possibly be accounted for by explosions or the bursting of the Meteor, which might result in this zig-zag effect on the photograph.

The President.—We shall be very pleased to receive and shall look forward to getting Mr. Holmes's contribution on this interesting point.

Lieut-Colonel Lenox Conyngham, Director of the Variable Star Section, next showed a lantern picture of the

Common Seal of the Society which had been accepted by the Council. The design was approved with applause. He then went on to read a very interesting paper on the Variability of Stars, fully illustrating his remarks by lantern slide pictures and blackboard drawings.

The President.—In thanking Colonel Conyngham for his very interesting paper, I think that we shall look forward with great interest to the reading of this paper in the JOURNAL, as Colonel Conyngham has no doubt given us a great deal to think of. There is just one point I would like to notice. I have it in my recollection that about six months ago I saw that photographs of the Algol curve had been taken showing a slight secondary minimum.

Lieut-Colonel Conyngham.—Do you refer to a secondary minimum in between two maxima?

The President.—That was my impression. It was quite a recent discovery made on examination of photographs as far as I remember.

Mr. Banerjee next read an interesting paper on the Crater of Clavius, fully explaining and illustrating his discourse with lantern slides.

The President. in returning thanks to Mr. Banerjee, remarked that this was the second of Mr. Banerjee's papers on a similar subject, and that all would agree with him that Mr. Banerjee had treated the Craters in a very able and graphic way, showing exactly what they would look like if one were to stand in the middle; and he had also made a new departure in showing what would be the scene from the tops of the peaks of the mountains.

Lieut-Colonel Conyngham now took the Chair while the President read a paper on the Systematic Motions of the Stars.

Lieut-Colonel Conyngham, in returning thanks to the President for his paper on the researches into the stellar motions, remarked that the President had very ably picked out just those points which were of most importance and interest in a very broad and comprehensive subject.

Mr. Pearce, a representative of Messrs. Watson & Co., London, next demonstrated and explained the use of certain telescopes, cameras and instruments for use in Astronomical work which his firm had sent out specially on account of the Society to fill the requirements of any of the members.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Pearce was returned, and the Meeting was then adjourned to the 28th February 1911.