

reason why we think there is some probability in the Principle of Relativity is because it is always found by experiments, undertaken to detect the motion of our system through the æther, that there is an exact compensation. Moreover, it has been proved that for a very large class of natural phenomena this compensation occurs in the actual fundamental laws themselves—the laws of electrodynamics—and so prevails in all phenomena which depend on those laws.

[*The Observatory.*

The Harvest Moon is not generally understood by the public, but the true cause has long been known to astronomers and can be very easily explained. It arises from the fact that the ecliptic or the Sun's apparent path through the heavens is variously inclined to the horizon at different seasons of the year. The celestial equator is always at the same angle with the horizon, and hence equal portions come above the horizon in equal periods of time. If the Moon moved in the celestial equator, she would rise and set directly in the east and west points of the horizon respectively, and she would rise later each night by a nearly constant interval. But the Moon moves in a path which is constantly inclined to the ecliptic at an angle of about 5 degrees, though for the present explanation she may be regarded as moving in the ecliptic; and as the ecliptic is inclined to the celestial equator at an angle of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees, the Moon in all parts of her orbit does not rise at equal intervals on each succeeding night.

[*Popular Astronomy.*

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## Notices of the Society

### Election of Members.

The attention of members is invited to Bye-law No. 14, regulating the election of persons who desire to join the Society. It is hoped that those who are already members will induce others to join. Forms of application can be had from the Secretary, Mr. P. N. Mukherji.

### The Library.

An opportunity will occur during the next few months, owing to one of the members of the Society going to

England, of obtaining books cheaply there for the Library. A subscription list has already been opened, and several members in Calcutta have subscribed and enabled the Council to make a beginning with the Library. Other members outside Calcutta, however, have not yet come forward, and as the Library will be one of the most important adjuncts of the Society, and will be available to members both in and out of Calcutta, those who have not done so are invited to help the Society in making a good start with this important branch of the work. Suggestions as to useful books for the Library will also be welcomed by the Librarian.

A number of books have already been received and can be borrowed by members in accordance with the Bye-laws.

The books available can be ascertained from the Assistant Librarian and a catalogue will issue shortly. The reading room of the Society in the Imperial Secretariat is now opened for the use of members daily from 5 to 7 p.m. except on Wednesdays and holidays, and from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, unless that day is a holiday.

### Subscriptions.

Some of the subscriptions are still due for the current session from members. Those who have not yet done so are requested to remit the amounts to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer will also be glad to receive those donations promised for the Library and quarters which have not already been paid, as the Council wish to take full advantage of the promised assistance as soon as possible during the present session.

### Instruments.

The President as well as the Director of Instruments will be in England for a short time this summer. They will be happy to assist any members who desire to purchase second-hand instruments by inspecting the instruments for them if they will communicate with the Director at once.

### Papers for Meetings.

It is requested that drawings which accompany papers for reproduction in the JOURNAL may be made with Indian ink on white paper. This will insure a clear reproduction.

### Meetings.

The ordinary meetings of the Society will be held on the following dates :—

1911.

May 30th | June 27th

The meetings will commence at 5 p.m. and, until further notice, will be held in the Imperial Secretariat (Treasury) Buildings.

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### Addresses of Officers.

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|-----------------------------------|-------|---|
| (1) <i>President</i>              | . . . | H. G. TOMKINS, F.R.A.S.,<br>9, Riverside, Barrackpore.  |
| (2) <i>Secretary (Scientific)</i> | . . . | W. G. BURN, B.Sc., Assistant<br>Controller of Stores, E. I.<br>Ry., 105, Clive Street,<br>Calcutta. |
| (3) <i>Do. (Business)</i>         | . . . | P. N. MUKHERJI, M.A., F.S.S.,<br>Imperial Secretariat Build-<br>ings, Calcutta.                     |
| (4) <i>Treasurer</i>              | . . . | U. L. BANERJEE, M.A., Office<br>of the Acctt. General, Koila<br>Ghat Street, Calcutta.              |
| (5) <i>Librarian</i>              | . . . | ASHUTOSH MITTRA, M.A.,<br>6-10, Chowdhurie's Lane,<br>Bagh Bazar, Calcutta.                         |
| (6) <i>Editor</i>                 | . . . | CHAS. T. LETTON, 8, Hastings<br>Street, Calcutta.   |
| (7) <i>Directors:—</i>            |       |   |
| <i>General Section</i>            | . . . | DR. E. P. HARRISON, Ph.D.<br>Presidency College, Calcutta.  |
| <i>Lunar Section</i>              | . . . | H. G. TOMKINS, F.R.A.S.,<br>9, Riverside, Barrackpore.  |
| <i>Meteor Section</i>             | . . . | B. M. RAKSHIT, B.A.,<br>77-3, Musjid Barry Street,<br>Calcutta.                                     |
| <i>Variable Star Section</i>      | . . . | LT.-COL. LENOX CONYNGHAM,<br>R.E., F.R.A.S., Dehra<br>Dun.  |
| <i>Photography</i>                | . . . | R. J. WATSON,<br>37, Park Road, Barrackpore   |
| <i>Instruments</i>                | . . . | S. WOODHOUSE,<br>15, Wood Street, Calcutta.   |