



The Journal of the Astronomical Society of India.

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SESSION 1916-17.

[Nos. 1, 2 & 3.

Report of the Meeting of the Society held on Tuesday, 31st October 1916.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 31st October 1916, in the Imperial Secretariat (Treasury Buildings), at 5-15 P.M. Mr. H. G. Tomkins, C.I.E., F.R.A.S., the President of the Society, was in the chair.

The minutes of proceedings of the last meeting of the Society held on Tuesday, the 27th June 1916, were read and confirmed.

The presents received by the Society since the last meeting were announced and thanks accorded to the donors.

The Rev. J. H. Allen, B.Sc., Azamgarh, was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary, Mr. D. N. Dutt, M.A., then read the Report of the Society for the session 1915-16, which was adopted.

The President asked the scrutineers to announce the result of the votings in regard to the election of members

of Council for the session 1916-17. This was done, the names being as follows :—

<i>President</i>	...	MR. H. G. TOMKINS, C.I.E., F.R.A.S.
<i>Vice-President</i>	...	1. H. H. THE MAHARAJ RANA BAHADUR SIR BHAWANI SINGH, K.C.S.I., F.R.A.S. 2. W. A. LEE, ESQ., F.R.M.S. 3. J. EVERSHED, ESQ., F.R.A.S. 4. COL. LENNOX CONYNGHAM, R.E., F.R.A.S.
<i>Secretaries</i>	...	1. P. C. BOSE, ESQ. (<i>Scientific</i>). 2. D. N. DUTT, ESQ., M.A. (<i>Business</i>).
<i>Members</i>	...	1. MRS. PERCY BROWN. 2. S. C. GHOSH, ESQ., M.A. 3. K. ENLER, ESQ. 4. G. A. K. HUTTON, ESQ. 5. P. N. MUKHERJEE, ESQ., M.A., F.R.E.S. 6. C. V. RAMAN, ESQ., M.A. 7. DR. D. N. MULLICK, B.A., D.Sc. 8. L. DEMETRIUS, ESQ. 9. C. K. SARKAR, ESQ., C.E., M.S.A., M.S.E. 10. MRS. TOMKINS.

The election was confirmed.

The following gentlemen were appointed to be Directors of Sections :—

<i>Classes</i>	...	1. REV. A. C. RIDSDALE, M.A., F.R.A.S.
<i>Lunar Section</i>	...	2. REV. J. MITCHELL, M.A., F.R.A.S.
<i>Meteor Section</i>	...	3. P. C. BOSE, ESQ.
<i>Variable Star Section</i>	...	4. C. V. RAMAN, ESQ., M.A.
<i>Instrumental Director</i>	...	5. S. WOODHOUSE, ESQ.

Mr. S. C. Ghosh, M.A., was appointed Librarian, Mr. W. A. Lee, Editor, and Rai Bahadur U. L. Banerjee, Treasurer.

The President then delivered an address.

A cordial vote of thanks was then accorded to Mr. Tomkins and the meeting was adjourned after the usual vote of thanks to the office bearers for 1915-16, the auditors and the scrutineers.

Report for 1915-16.

THE Council beg to submit the following report on the progress and operations of the Astronomical Society of India for the session 1915-16 which ended on 30th September 1916.

2. *Members.*—The Society has completed the sixth year of its existence. It entered into its sixth session with 109 members and closed it with 90. There were 7 new admissions and 4 resignations, 21 were struck off the rolls under Bye-law No. 27 for default in payment of subscriptions, 1 struck off last year was re-instated and 2 died.

3. *Meetings.*—The Council held 8 ordinary meetings and 1 special meeting for conducting the business of the Society.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society for electing the office bearers for the session 1915-16 was held on 7th December 1915. There were also 7 ordinary monthly meetings of the members at which papers were read and discussions held. A list of the papers received with the names of their authors is given at the end of this report.

4. *Public Lectures.*—For the benefit of the general public three public lectures of a popular kind were delivered free at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on the 28th January 1916, the 17th February 1916 and the 7th March 1916 respectively. The subjects of the lectures and the names of the lecturers and of the gentlemen who presided at them are given below :—

Subject.	Lecturer.	President.
(1) Eclipses and occultations.	Dr. D. N. Mullick, B.A., D.Sc., Professor, Presidency College, Calcutta.	The Hon'ble Justice Sir Asutosh Mukhopadhaya, Kt., M.A., D.Sc., &c.
(2) The Heavens through a small telescope.	Rev. J. Mitchell, M.A., F.R.A.S., Wesleyan College, Bankura.	The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S.I., I.C.S.
(3) Gravitation—What is it ?	Mr. C. V. Raman, M.A.	Mr. H. G. Tomkins, C.I.E., F.R.A.S.

The best thanks of the Society are due to the lecturers and to the presidents for the trouble taken by them and also to the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta for having lent the Town Hall free of charge, except for cost of lights and fans, for the purposes of the lectures.

5. *Journal of the Society.*—There were three quarterly issues of the journal during this session, covering the period from October 1915 to June 1916. In addition a leaflet was published every month from January 1916 to September 1916 containing Memoranda for Observers, Hints for the observation of the sky and other useful information. These monthly

notices used formerly to be included in the journals, but it was decided to extend their scope and to issue them separately towards the close of every month.

Some of the more important of the popular lectures delivered under the auspices of the Society at the Calcutta Town Hall during the two sessions 1913-14 and 1914-15 were also published in journal form during this session.

6. *Recognition of the Society.*—The following Societies and Observatories exchange their publications with those of the Society :—

1. The Royal Astronomical Society.
2. The British Astronomical Association.
3. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.
4. The South African Association for the Cultivation of Science.
5. The Astronomical Society of Barcelona.
6. The Astronomer Royal, Greenwich.
7. The Indian Observatory, Alipur.
8. The Kodaikanal Observatory.
9. The Astronomical Society of Leeds.
10. The Nizamiah Observatory, Hyderabad.
11. The Oxford University Observatory.
12. The Saraswat Chatuspathi, Calcutta.
13. The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta.
14. The Vatican Observatory, Rome.

The acknowledgments of the Society are due to these Societies and Observatories for this exchange.

The journal of the Society including the monthly notices continues to be subscribed to by the following educational institutions :—

1. The Presidency College, Calcutta.
2. The Sanskrit College, Calcutta.
3. The Hooghly College, Chinsurah.
4. The Krishnagar College.
5. The Muir Central College, Allahabad.
6. The Elphinstone College, Bombay.

The journal and the monthly notices are also supplied free to the Imperial Library, Calcutta.

7. *Government Grant.*—The Council have much pleasure in announcing that the grant of Rs. 600 made to the funds of the Society by the Government of Bengal in 1915 was repeated in the current year. The receipt of this grant has been gratefully acknowledged.

8. *Library.*—The number of books other than journals is now 251. The Library is now kept open on Mondays and Thursdays every week (not being Government holidays) from 5 to 7 P.M.

9. *Quarters.*—The business of the Society continues with the permission of the Comptroller General to be conducted in a room of the Imperial Secretariat (Treasury) Buildings, which is used during office hours for office purposes, and the Library continues to be housed in another room in the same buildings placed at the disposal of the Society by the Comptroller General. The gratitude of the Society is due to the Comptroller General for his kindness.

10. *Accounts.*—The accounts of the Society for the year under report are shown in the accompanying statements.

11. *Extension of the scope of the Society.*—In the first five years of its existence the Society had interested itself mainly in the theoretical side of astronomy. No systematic effort had been made to develop its practical side. The necessity for such development was always recognized, but it was considered desirable not to depart from the line on which work was being carried on until the Society had found its feet. Happily the time has now arrived when such an advance can safely be made. As a start, therefore, arrangements are being made for a systematic naked eye observation of the sky by members with a view to discovering new objects, such as new stars, comets, etc. Full details of the scheme are given in the "Note on the Systematic Observation of the Sky" published in Vol. VI, Nos. 4, 5, and 6 of the Society's Journal. The required maps are in course of preparation and work will be commenced at once.

An endeavour is also being made to associate with the Society, the more important educational institutions in India. The intention is to inculcate a taste for the science of Astronomy among the older students, boys and girls, of these institutions, to teach them a little about the stars and other heavenly bodies, and to create and foster in them a spirit of theoretical and practical research. To this end almost all the leading educational institutions in India have been addressed, and their replies are awaited.