

## List of Papers Read at the Ordinary Monthly Meetings of the Members during the Session 1915-16.

- (1) A few considerations concerning the chemical and physical state of comets by Mr. Thomas Deighton.
- (2) What can be the real nature of gravitational force by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., M. LOND. MATH. SOC., F.R.MET.S., F.PH.S., A.L.C.M., Foreign Member of Society Astronomique de France.
- (3) A note on the elements of the orbit of the IX Satellite of Jupiter by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (4) Some recent work on the relative motion of matter and ether by Mr. C. V. Raman, M.A.
- (5) Moltish's comet of 1915 by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (6) The shifting of position of the Earth's poles by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (7) An enquiry into the equilibrium and stability of the solar system by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (8) The Galaxy as the fundamental plane of the solar star cluster by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (9) How to obtain time by the Rev. J. Mitchell, M.A., F.R.A.S.
- (10) The recent conjunction of Jupiter and Venus by Mr. P. C. Bose.
- (11) The absorption of light in reference to the infinity of the universe by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (12) The period of rotation of Satellite Ganymede by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (13) The proposal for a systematic observation of the sky by Mr. H. G. Tomkins, C.I.E., F.R.A.S.
- (14) The theory of unstable equilibrium of revolving masses in reference to double stars by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (15) What is the physical condition of the Sun's interior by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (16) The climate of the planet Mars by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.
- (17) The rotational motion of the Orion Nebula by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.

(18) The orbital planes of the major planets by Mr. R. J. Pocock, B.A., B.Sc., F.R.A.S.

(19) The revolution of the components of Zeta Ursa Major by Mr. P. C. Bose.

(20) The effects of Tidal friction upon the evolution of the Earth-Moon system by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale, M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.

(21) A mathematical calculation showing that the duration of the Sun's radiating energy is sufficient to meet the demands of Geology by the Rev. A. C. Ridsdale M.A., F.R.A.S., etc.

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## Presidential Address.

I HAVE now to inflict on you my presidential address, and I will first of all briefly refer to the progress of the Society during the past year, and our proposals for next year; and will then touch on the subject of some of my own researches in connection with the Moon.

The Astronomical Society of India is now six years old, and as you will no doubt have noticed from the report of the Council, its position is satisfactory in some ways distinctly so. We have to regret a diminution of our members by 19; some I regret to say were due to death. We had seven new members during the year, and of these most are prospective workers for the Society. It will, of course, be remembered by those who are original members, that when the Society was founded a very large number of people joined it mainly for the novelty of the institution. In one of my early addresses I referred to these members, and anticipated that they would probably fall off when their interest flagged. This has been the case, and I think now that we have probably parted with most of them.

We have at present a membership of 90, and I hope that this will soon be made up to three figures again with real working members.

As regards our finances—always an anxious problem—I am sure you will all join me in thanks to the Bengal Government for their assistance of Rs. 600 which has been referred to in the report. This has not only helped us to secure the Society against unpleasant monetary surprises a year earlier than we hoped, but has enabled the Council now to adopt a programme of work for the next year, which we could not otherwise have hoped to undertake. We are, therefore, under a very deep debt of gratitude to Government.