



The Journal of the Astronomical Society of India.

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Meetings of the Society

During the half-year ending 30th June 1919, five ordinary meetings of members were held at which papers were read and discussed. These papers are published in the present issue of the Journal. The Council also held four Meetings for the transactions of ordinary business and two Extraordinary Meetings were also held for the transaction of business of greater importance. Besides these Meetings a Public Lecture of a popular character was delivered at the Dalhousie Institute under the auspices of the Society on the 10th February 1919. The subject was the 'Genesis of the Earth' and the Society was fortunate in having the lecture delivered by Dr. J.W. Gregory D.Sc., F.R.S., M.I. M. M. of the Glasgow University, who happened to be in Calcutta as a Member of the

Calcutta University Commission. The chair on the occasion was kindly taken by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.S.I., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. The Council offers its highest gratitude to the Lecturer and the Chairman for their generosity.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Monthly meeting held on the 9th January 1919.

After the minutes of the Proceedings of the last monthly meetings were read and confirmed, the Business Secretary announced the various presentations received since the last announcement and thanks were accorded to the respective donors. After this announcement, the Members and Visitors were taken to the Society's Observatory where an enjoyable evening was spent in the observation of the prominent objects of the sky through the Society's Telescope.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting held on 28th January 1919.

After the transaction of the routine works Dr. T. Royds read out his notes on "The proposals for the further progress of the sun."

Extracts from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Meeting in February 1919.

The usual formal business being over Mr. P.C. Bose read his paper on "The Man Mandir of Benares."

Extract from the minutes of the Proceedings of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting held on the 20th March 1919.

In this meeting after the formal business was over, Rai Bahadur U. L. Bannerjee read his paper (an abstract) from Mr. Pickering's Phenomena of Novæ, Dr. Royds then gave a discourse on the paper on *The Energy of a Magnetic Storm* by Mr. Chapman.

Extracts from the Minutes of the Proceedings held on 25th June 1919.

Among other things and after the transactions of the ordinary business, the members proceeded to select office-bearers for the ensuing year. With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting terminated *Sine Die*

The delay in bringing out this issue of the Journal of

the Astronomical Society has been unavoidable. The indulgence of Members is craved all the same. The editorial work must entail, besides other details, a constant attention to the entire get-up of the Magazine and with other pressing business in the hands of the management, delay has had to be met in the issue of the Magazine. The new management of the Society, however, have put things on a better footing since; and care will be taken in future for the issue of the Magazine in right time.

Explanation of the Phenomena of a Nova

BY W. H. PICKERING

ABSTRACT BY—RAI U. L. BANNERJEA BAHADUR.

Mr. W. H. Pickering in his paper dated 15th August 1918, suggests an explanation of the phenomena presented by a Nova. He first discusses the explanation formerly given that the appearance was due to the collision of two stars, and put forward two objections to this suggestions. First stars being too small in proportion to the distances between them cannot permit frequent collisions so as to cause the appearance of novæ every 3 or 4 years and in the second place the mass of the two stars is so large that it would require centuries for a nova to cool down, instead of weeks, by which the novæ ordinarily cool down. Some hold that the stars need not necessarily collide but may pass near enough to produce violent tides, leaving open the surface and exposing the hot interior, but Mr. Pickering thought that no tidal effect could produce a phenomena in which light of a nova can increase 10,000 folds in so short space of time as 6 days, as was the case with the recent nova in Aquila.