



The Journal of the Astronomical Society of India.

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The Session of 1916-17.

THE session began in October last with the annual meeting of the Society and has been marked by progress in one or two directions. The monthly meetings were held as usual on the last Tuesday of each month and on two occasions the business has been varied from the usual reading of papers and discussion. In December an out-door meeting was held on the roof of the Treasury Buildings where members had the use of several telescopes kindly lent for the occasion and were thus able to practically observe some of the heavenly bodies. The evening was fine, and as those in charge of the telescopes each had their own allotted objects to show, members were able to go round and see a variety of the sights of the heavens. The meeting was a distinct success and will be repeated. The other variation was a meeting at which informal discussion on subjects brought up by members took place. During the session the proposal for systematic search of the sky by members for objects such as new stars, comets, etc., has been taken up. The idea is now developing, and we have received evidence of a good deal of work done. Maps have been issued

from time to time by the Scientific Secretary and constellations allotted, and it is hoped that many more members will take it up next session. Another feature of this session has been the Association of Colleges in India with the Society and twelve of these institutions have now joined. Literature was issued to them and the ground work has been laid for further activity next session. Difficulty is felt by the Council in ascertaining the wants and also the capabilities of the various colleges. Useful discussion has, however, taken place on this matter, and the colleges have been addressed in order to achieve the objects of the scheme. Connected with this scheme, a silver medal has been instituted by the Society to be awarded for the best essay by a student of any of the Associated Colleges. The essays are to be received by July 31st, 1917. Members may like to know that a chance has occurred of obtaining a 9-inch reflecting telescope for the Society, and that the Council are in course of negotiations about this. It is proposed to use this instrument regularly, and to arrange for visitors' evenings in the clear season.

It is satisfactory to find that the Society has now succeeded in placing its finances on a working basis. It will be remembered that the Journals of the Society had to be a good deal curtailed some time ago owing to shortage of funds. It has now been found possible to relax this, and the present issue is the first of the enlarged numbers. It perhaps appropriately coincides with the appointment of our new Editor to whom all success in his task.

H. G. TOMKINS.

12th July 1917.

A short report on the work of the Organisation for the search for new objects in the sky by the Scientific Secretary.

It was proposed in July 1916 to organise a systematic search by members of the Society, throughout the year for new objects, such as new stars, comets, etc., and for this purpose to allot constellations every month to those who would assist. The search was to be made with the naked eye or field glasses, and maps and other data to be supplied to each observer by the Society. I was deputed to take the matter in hand and was requested to see that standard maps were prepared in the least possible time. Members were also invited to join in this movement, and in a short time there were