

PRESIDENT: Dr W. H. VAN DEN BOS.

SECRETARY: Mr P. MULLER.

The President opened the meeting, Mr P. Muller acting as Secretary.

The President remarked that, as an overlap of one degree between the domains covered by the northern and southern central offices is sufficient, it might lighten the burden of the northern office if Dr Jeffers considered shifting his southern limit from -30° to -20° .

Dr Jeffers gave information on the present state of the northern Card Catalogue at Lick Observatory, received from Dr Aitken a few years ago. As none of those present desired to discuss further points of the Draft Report, the President proceeded to read a letter from Prof. Hagihara, that the astronomers at Tokyo intend to take up the measurement of double stars as soon as the 26-inch refractor is back in operation.

The President invited those present to send letters of greeting to Messrs R. G. Aitken (Honorary President), H. N. Russell, G. van Biesbroeck and J. Voûte. These were circulated and signed.

The desirability of a publication of General Catalogues for the northern and southern domains, to bring the ADS and SDS up to date since 1927, was next discussed. The general opinion was that such publications, in a not too distant future, were highly desirable.

Dr Jeffers remarked that a large number of observations made in recent years had not yet become available at Lick and the President confirmed that the same applied to the southern central office.

Dr Jeffers invited opinions on the most desirable form of such a General Catalogue. The President pointed out that this was not an urgent matter at the present stage and could be dealt with more efficiently by correspondence when the time to prepare manuscripts approached.

The President invited a discussion on the future and aims of Double Star Astronomy. He mentioned that a number of experienced astronomers had voiced their concern that few young men appear to enter this field, to replace those retiring from active work. He himself agreed that this was the case, but was not particularly worried, as he believed that unjustified neglect of any branch of astronomy was bound to correct itself in the long run. Dr Mitchell said that the same situation was found in parallax observation and that he ascribed it to the rigours of the observational work. The President remarked that the case is relatively more serious for double stars, as these have to be kept under observation, whereas a parallax is known, once it has been sufficiently well determined. Nevertheless, he hoped that double star observation would always be in the hands of astronomers who took a genuine interest in the subject, as the results obtained by those who perform it as a routine duty tend to be of small value.

Dr Baize wished to see the technique of measurement improved. According to his comparisons, the filar micrometer is satisfactory for position angles, but surpassed by modern forms of the double image micrometer in the measurement of distances.

Prof. Zagar mentioned the great need for accurate determination of differences of magnitude and radial velocities, as referred to in the Draft Report, and emphasized the importance of continued statistical studies of double stars.

Mr Muller stated that, using his double image micrometer as a photometer, he is obtaining magnitude differences with a mean error of about $0^m.04$.

Prof. R. E. Wilson said that astronomers working in other branches needed the results of double star observers and that at Mount Wilson spectra of both components of about 200 pairs have been obtained. This permits them to be placed on a Russell diagram. Mr Muller mentioned that a similar result was obtained from his measurements of magnitude differences in two colours, red and green, for a number of bright stars.

There being no further discussion, the President closed the meeting at 12.15 p.m.