

In the discussion Mr Merfield mentioned a possible latitude observing station at Canberra, Australia, but stated that no definite steps had been taken. Perhaps the Adelaide Observatory might co-operate.

Professor Dawson inquired about the instrument that used to be at Bayswater; according to Professor Schlesinger this had been borrowed from Germany and had probably been returned. Professor Dawson added that La Plata would probably undertake observations with the instrument from Oncativo.

Dr Jones agreed that it was largely a matter of personnel, and he hoped that Professor Schlesinger's automatic arrangement would help. Professor Schlesinger explained his instrument and the trials made with it by Dr Oort in 1923, but nothing definite had yet been reached. His instrument was in reality an improvement on those of Kapteyn and Ross, but had the great advantage of being automatic.

The resolution, printed in italics at the bottom of p. 128, was then unanimously accepted.

Professor Müller, speaking also for Professor Gautier of Geneva, reported on the work at Potsdam, and referred to the heavy loss suffered by the death of Dr Wanach. The work was now being carried on by Dr Mahnkopf.

The following resolution was adopted: "The Commission asks that a subvention of £100 be made annually, until the next meeting of the I.A.U." Professor Schlesinger and Sir Frank Dyson proposed a resolution commending the President's work. This was carried by acclamation and the Commission adjourned.

Commission 20. (PETITES PLANÈTES, ETC.)

In the absence of Professor A. O. Leuschner, the Chair was occupied by Professor G. Van Biesbroeck, with Dr Innes acting as Secretary.

The Commission met on three occasions. A letter from Professor Leuschner was discussed by the Chairman and he proposed that a message to Professor Leuschner, signed by all present, should be prepared and despatched. This was agreed to unanimously.

Code for telegrams announcing discoveries of Comets, etc.: this was discussed and referred to Commission 6.

Dr Comrie spoke on the arrangements made by the *Nautical Almanac* for the introduction of the 1950.0 equinox and of the intention, if possible, to issue in one volume the rectangular coordinates of Jupiter and Saturn at 40-day intervals and some other planets at 10-day intervals for the period 1920–1939, all referred to the equinox of 1950.0.

Dr Kopff added that the *Berliner Jahrbuch* will add a table as from 1932 or 1933 showing the reduction from the mean equinox of 1925 to that of 1950.

M. Andoyer remarked that 1950 is far distant and that it is difficult to define its mean equinox. He preferred the 10-year intervals already used by the C.T. 1920–30–40, etc.

It was asked if planetary elements would be referred to 1950 and Dr Kopff replied in the affirmative.

Dr Crommelin considered that in the case of comets the equinox of the year of observation should be used as they were more ephemeral than minor planets. Dr Comrie stated that this would be provided for as both will be given in the *N.A.*—the equinox of 1950 and the reduction to the beginning of year.

The discussion was continued by M. Andoyer, Professor Brown, Dr Kopff, M. Commendantoff, M. Fayet and Dr Merton.

Finally resolution *A* (p. 187) was proposed by Professor Brown and carried *nem. con.*

The remainder of the first sitting was occupied with a discussion on the advisability of including a physical description of comets in telegrams announcing discovery and whether the place telegraphed was visual or photographic. After Dr Crommelin, Professor Brown, Dr Merton and Dr Dawson had spoken, resolution *B* (p. 187) was moved by Dr Merton and carried *nem. con.*

Dates of Ephemerides: It was decided after some discussion that this should be left to Commission 6 to deal with.

Dr Crommelin suggested that large telescopes should be used to determine the size and shape of Eros at its near approach in 1931. He considered it might be a third of second of arc in diameter and its variable magnitude suggested an irregular figure. This was agreed to.

Research Survey of the Minor Planets

Dr Crommelin expressed his appreciation of Professor Leuschner's work. It was remarked that 50 per cent. of the planets now found annually were lost because of insufficient observations.

Dr Van der Bilt and Dr Kopff went into some detail as to requirements and the efforts made to assist. Dr Kopff was asked on what principle numbers were assigned to the small planets; he explained that the requirement was five observations spread over at least one month. After Professor Heinrich had referred to M. Buchar's work at Prague on a method by which orbits can be improved, resolution *C* (p. 187) was put and carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman informed the meeting that it had been decided in Commission 6 that the Gerrish telegraphic code for comets should be amended so as to indicate the weight of the observation.

Dr Crommelin suggested that the "Magnitude" group should lose a figure which would then be used for a description of the object. The meeting favoured leaving this matter to Commission 6.

The Chairman submitted a memorandum by Dr Kopff which was read.

The Chairman then moved a motion on the distribution of information about minor planets which was carried *nem. con.* (p. 304).

Precedence of the naming of Comets: A resolution (see p. 304) was moved by Dr Crommelin and carried after some discussion as to difficult cases.

The Chairman referred to the report from the Leningrad Institute circulated in proof by M. Commendantoff and the latter also read a report which the Chairman recommended should be added to the report of the Commission and this was agreed to.

The Chairman also referred to the work done at Nice by M. Fayet and it was agreed that it and a note of the tables in hand by Dr Crommelin should be noted in the report.

After a few informal remarks the Chairman declared the session closed.

Commission 22. (ÉTOILES FILANTES.)

The Commission held a well-attended meeting on July 9. Four of its members were present.

Professor C. P. Olivier presided. Mr Felix de Roy was appointed Secretary..