
The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
AND
ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December 1954

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Assistant—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

Instrument Section: *Director*—J. BLAIK, Esq.

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ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1954.

Membership

Membership shows a gradual increase.

Finance

A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

Observatory

The Observatory has been open throughout the year excepting for a few days at the end of June when both the Director and Assistant were in Shetland for the total solar eclipse. Astronomy Courses, at different levels, have been conducted as in previous years. Adult Classes have been held in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Edinburgh.

More than 4000 visitors have been received during the year, including School groups from a wide area. During the period of the International Festival of Music and Drama, "open" nights were held for visitors to Edinburgh and several hundred visitors were welcomed at that time. Whenever conditions were suitable visitors were shown astronomical objects through the telescopes; otherwise the main instruments were demonstrated and explained and an illustrated lecture was given. The average duration of these visits was about two hours.

A fair proportion of members of the Society have made use of the facilities available at the Observatory but the observational work is dependent upon a relatively small group. Observation with the telescopes was carried out on 142 nights, mainly in the winter months. Members are encouraged to take part in the work of the Sections, the main results of which are communicated to the appropriate Sections of the British Astronomical Association and to others interested. The Instrument Section has been busy with repairs to the rotation machinery of the McEwan Dome, alterations to the Crawford Telescope and the overhaul of the 4½-inch photo-visual telescope.

A number of small telescopes which are loaned to members (especially those in the Observing Sections) have been kept in use and have given valuable experience to those using them.

The children of members were invited to the Observatory on certain evenings. It was clear or partly clear on most occasions and after some observation slides and films were shown.

Less work has been necessary this year on the maintenance of the buildings. Repairs to the roof of the Crawford Dome have been only of a temporary nature and it is agreed by officials of the City Architect's Department that a major repair will be necessary later. Some improvements were effected in the Observatory grounds with the co-operation of the City Parks Department.

Lectures

As usual, a varied programme of lectures has been carried through. Formal meetings were held during the winter months while during the summer a number of informal talks were given

by members. Subjects ranged from "The Structure of the Galaxy" to "Spectral Type and its Physical Meaning," and from "The Later Astronomers Royal for Scotland" to "Interplanetary Travel." One meeting was devoted to a symposium on the total solar eclipse of 1954 June 30, when members gave reports of their observations from different locations along the belt of totality and a short film, photographed by Mr G. V. Black from an R.A.F. aircraft, was shown.

Publication

Several publications were issued during the year. These were "Thomas David Anderson," a Presidential Address by Dr Hector Macpherson, which was printed and distributed to Astronomical Libraries and Institutions throughout the world, and "Planetary Atmospheres" by Dr A. Woodham which was duplicated and given a more restricted circulation. The monthly star maps and notes have also been issued, as usual.

Library

Astronomical periodicals have been available and a number of new books have been purchased for the Library. Series of some periodicals have been bound. We are happy to report that the Library is now being used very much more than in the past.

Commemoration

To mark the centenary of the birth of Dr Thomas Anderson a new inscription was added by the Society to his tombstone in the Churchyard at Innerwick, East Lothian. The inscription records Dr Anderson's discovery of fifty-three variable and three temporary stars. A short service, held at Innerwick Church on 22nd May, was attended by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, by relatives of Dr Anderson and by members of the Council of the Society.

Display

The public display of astronomical and meteorological information in the Case near the Register House has been continued at the request of H.M. Ministry of Works. The work in connection with this is carried out voluntarily by members.

Acknowledgments

The Council wish to thank all who have helped in the work of the Society during the year. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the gift of a fine astronomical book by Miss E. P. Leach, London, and of apparatus by Mr G. F. Hutchison and Mr J. Blaik, and the loan of apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, the British Astronomical Association and the Royal Scottish Museum.

Obituary

The Council record with regret the loss by death of Mrs M. M. Montgomery and Mr J. Gillespie.

In name of the Council,

R. W. WRIGLEY, *President.*
J. GIBSON KERR, } *Secretaries.*
N. G. MATTHEW, }

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
For Year to 31st December 1954

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions and Entrance Fees £77 14 0	Library 50 16 3
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—	Lectures 21 17 6
Income Payments 201 4 7	Transport 10 16 0
Income Tax recovered 169 10 2	Publication £58 11 0
Edin. Corporation, for Observatory 200 0 0	<i>Less</i>
Donation from Guild of Pharmacists 1 1 0	Donation by Mr Wrigley 5 5 0
<u>£649 9 9</u>	<u>53 6 0</u>
	Observatory, Calton Hill—
	Contribution by Society towards cost of repairs to City Dome £25 0 0
	Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc. 203 16 8
	Director 100 0 0
	Assistant 40 0 0
	Treasurer 21 0 0
	Auditor 5 5 0
	<u>395 1 8</u>
	Honoraria to Joint Secretaries 63 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration 12 12 0
	Printing, Stationery and Postages 64 13 11
	Audit Fee 5 5 0
	Contrib. to Dr Anderson Memorial 10 0 0
	Miscellaneous 17 11 10
	<u>£705 0 2</u>
	Balance at 31st December 1954—
	In Bank £77 6 8
	In hands of Treasurer 7 6 3
Balance from 1953 140 3 4	<u>84 12 11</u>
<u>£789 13 1</u>	<u>£789 13 1</u>

EDINBURGH, 10th January 1955.—I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1954, and I am of the opinion that it is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I have seen the Banker's Certificate for the Balance in Bank at 31st December 1954.

R. N. OSWALD, C.A., Auditor.