
The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

REPORT BY THE COUNCIL AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year ended 31st December 1955

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Professor W. M. H. GREAVES, F.R.S., Astronomer Royal for Scotland.
Sir EDMUND WHITTAKER, F.R.S.

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Assistant—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

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

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Planetary Section: *Director*—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

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ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1955.

Membership

The total membership remains fairly stationary, around 130, new members making up for losses during the year.

Finance

A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

Observatory

The Observatory on Calton Hill has been open throughout the year. Astronomy Classes, at several levels, have been conducted. Adult Classes, of twenty weeks duration, have been held in conjunction with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Edinburgh. All Classes have included periods of observation with the telescopes. Other group instruction has included special Courses for Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and Sea Rangers.

Over 3500 visitors have been received during the year, including groups from Senior Schools, some from considerable distances. During the period of the International Festival of Music and Drama many foreign visitors were welcomed. Visitors were shown astronomical objects through the telescopes whenever conditions allowed, and the main instruments were shown and explained. When observation was impossible an illustrated lecture was given.

Some members of the Society have made good use of the facilities available at the Observatory but more members could avail themselves of the opportunities for observation and practical experience. Telescopes were in use on 133 nights, mainly during the winter. Bad weather during November and December restricted observing. The work of the Sections has continued and results have been communicated to the appropriate Sections of the British Astronomical Association. More of our members could participate in the observing programmes and the Directors of Sections (see front page of this Report) will be pleased to help and advise any member. Small telescopes are available, from time to time, for members taking part in observational work.

The interior wall of the stairway in the Main Building, which had given trouble for years, was renewed by Edinburgh Corporation during the year. Continual maintenance work, mainly on instruments, has been carried out and modification of the Crawford mounting is proceeding.

Lectures

The following lectures were given at formal meetings of the Society during the winter period:—

“ Saturn and its System ” (H. E. BUTLER, M.A., Ph.D.).

“ Astronomical Telescopes ” (G. M. SISSON, O.B.E., M.A.).

“ The Rome Meeting of the International Astronomical Union ”
(M. A. ELLISON, B.A., M.Sc., Sc.D.).

“ A comparison of Photographs taken with the Hale Telescope
with earlier Photographs ” (N. G. MATTHEW, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.).

“ Albert Einstein ” (E. FINLAY-FREUNDLICH, D.PHIL.).

“ The Advance of Astronomy since 1900 ” (J. L. WADDIE, Esq.).

“ High Altitude Astronomy ” (M. W. OVENDEN, M.A., B.Sc.,
Ph.D.).

During the summer, at monthly informal meetings, papers covering a variety of astronomical topics were given by members.

Publication

The monthly Notes and Star Maps have been continued and have been distributed to students and visitors in addition to members of the Society.

Library

Astronomical periodicals have been available, as usual, and new books have been added to the Library from time to time. Members have been making fair use of the Library but more advantage could be taken of it.

Lantern Slides

The Society's comprehensive collection of astronomical slides has been available to members.

Display

The public display of astronomical and meteorological information in the Case near the Register House has been continued. The work in connection with this is carried out voluntarily.

Acknowledgments

The Council wish to thank all who have helped the Society's work during the year. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the gift of apparatus by Mr B. O'Neill, of books by Mr J. Page and Mr R. E. Cameron, and the loan of apparatus by the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, the British Astronomical Association and the Royal Scottish Museum.

Obituary

The Council record with regret the loss by death of the Right Hon. Lord Cooper of Culross, Mr H. Pearson, and Professor W. M. H. Greaves, Astronomer Royal for Scotland. Professor Greaves, one of our Honorary Presidents and a member of the Society for seventeen years, was very interested in our work and was ever ready to help us. By his sudden death on 24th December we have suffered a great loss.

In name of the Council,

J. L. WADDIE, *President.*

J. GIBSON KERR, }
N. G. MATTHEW, } *Secretaries.*

The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December 1955

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions and Entrance Fees £64 11 6	Library 22 4 1
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—	Lectures 34 8 2
Income Payments 156 9 10	Transport 9 8 0
Income Tax recovered 164 13 9	Publication 17 8 0
Edin. Corporation, for Observatory 200 0 0	Observatory, Calton Hill—
Donations 3 18 0	Rates, Cleaning, Repairs, Heating, Lighting, etc. £131 16 3
<u>£589 13 1</u>	Director 100 0 0
	Assistant 40 0 0
	Treasurer 21 0 0
	Auditor 5 5 0
	<u>298 1 3</u>
	Honoraria to Joint Secretaries 63 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration 12 12 0
	Printing, Stationery and Postages 70 10 8
	Audit Fee 5 5 0
	Miscellaneous 12 11 6
	<u>£545 8 8</u>
	Balance at 31st December 1955—
	In Bank £122 6 11
	In hands of Treasurer 6 10 5
Balance from 1954 84 12 11	<u>128 17 4</u>
<u>£674 6 0</u>	<u>£674 6 0</u>

EDINBURGH, 9th January 1956.—I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December 1955, 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 1955.

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