

British Astronomical Association

VARIABLE STAR SECTION

CIRCULAR 2.

Deurne, Antwerp, Belgium, 1922 June 23.
23. rue Thisius.

(1) The Director begs to thank the members who kindly acknowledged the receipt of Circular 1, and made various suggestions as to our common undertaking. Pressure of work prevented him up to now from answering them all, but he hopes to be able to do so in the near future.

(2) **SECTIONAL MEETING.** — Owing to various circumstances, it will not be possible to hold during the present session the proposed Sectional Meeting, whom eleven members had intimated their willingness to attend. It is hoped that it may take place before the October meeting of the B. A. A., and members will be notified in due time.

Meanwhile, members are still invited to communicate to the Director their opinion on the articles of the proposed Agenda, or on other subjects suitable for discussion which may occur to them.

The following is a summary of views already expressed on some of the points raised (for abbreviations of members' names, *vide* Report N° 1 just sent to press for the *Journal*) :

1. There is a general agreement that nothing should be changed to the general policy of the Section.

2. *Wf* suggests that we should add **SS Aurigæ** (U Geminorum type) to our list of "Irregulars".

3. *Ad* suggests that local conditions should be considered in allocating stars. *Bk* thinks that any allotment will have to be done more by advising new observers what to take up than by trying to change the work of present observers; *Bh* expresses the same views, and adds that new observers could have a small proportion of old observed stars in order to attain experience which can be compared, and a larger proportion of any fresh stars.

4. The opportunity of having at least some stars followed by *all* the observers is generally recognized.

5. *Bh* suggests that suspected *and* proved faults in position or magnitude on charts or lists should be announced at once in the *Journal*. Steps have been taken to meet this.

6. Several members are ready to make colour observations.

7. *Th* thinks that observations should be given in the *Memoirs* as made.

8. *Ad* favours a series of short gazes. *Wf* takes longer over red stars as they are more difficult. *Th* thinks the important thing is that each observer for himself always do the same.

With one notable exception, all the members consulted favour the presentation of some form of souvenir to Mr. C. L. BROOK, preferably a printed address.

(3) THE ROME RESOLUTIONS. — The Commission on Variable Stars of the International Astronomical Union met at Rome on 1922 May 4 and 6. In the absence of Prof. S. I. BAILEY, president, Prof. Harlow SHAPLEY took the chair. In addition to Father J. G. HAGEN, S. J., Rev. T. E. R. PHILLIPS, Prof. H. N. RUSSELL, Dr. J. STEIN, S. J., Prof. E. STRÖMGREN and Prof. H. H. TURNER; Viscount N. V. GINORI, Col. E. E. MARKWICK, and Prof. A. A. NILLAND, members of the Section, were present. The Director attended the first meeting and took part in the discussion, which was held in English.

The following final recommendations of the Commission were accepted and adopted at the general assembly of the Union on May 10, and are reproduced hereafter for the information of members:

1. That the preliminary Report be accepted as the final Report of the Commission on Variable Stars.

2. That the Commission on Variable Stars undertake at once to prepare and submit to the International Astronomical Union for publication the Appendices proposed in the printed Report of the Commission.

3. That the Commission suggests to the different Variable Star organizations that they enter into friendly correspondence through their Presidents or otherwise on questions of observation and discussion and publication of Variable Star work.

4. That the Commission welcomes the formation of the organization centred at Lyons for the cooperation of amateur astronomers in the study of Variable Stars, and suggests that this organization act in close cooperation with the existing organizations in various countries which have a similar purpose.

5. That the Commission receives with enthusiasm and approval the proposal of Professor BANACHIEVICZ to undertake at the University of Cracow the preparation and publication of yearly ephemerides of eclipsing binaries, and recommends that the Union extend financial aid for that part of the work which is directly valuable for international cooperation.

6. That the Commission acknowledges the high distinction conferred by Father HAGEN and the Vatican Observatory in publishing in honour of the International Astronomical Union a volume containing reprints of valuable treatises on Variable Stars.

Points 3 and 4 obviously refer to the Variable Star Section of the British Astronomical Association. The steps to be taken in pursuance of these resolutions might well engage the careful attention of members and form a subject of discussion at our forthcoming meeting.

FELIX DE ROY

Director.