

British Astronomical Association

VARIABLE STAR SECTION

CIRCULAR 6.

Deurne, Antwerp, 1924 October 31.
26, rue Herry.

(1) THIRD SECTIONAL MEETING, 1924 NOVEMBER 26. —

The third Meeting of the Section under the present Directorship will be held on Wednesday, November 26, at 2.0 p.m. punctually, in the Porch Room at Sion College, Victoria Embankment, London. It is hoped that many Members will seize this opportunity of getting in touch with fellow observers, and discussing the best means of improving and extending our work.

The following points will be formally discussed : —

1. *Forms for recording observations.* — Several Members of the section are already using their own forms. The others have been up to now very generously supplied to the Section by Mr. C. L. BROOK. As the number of necessary forms has considerably increased of late, it is proposed to have a large stock printed at a reduced price, and that in future each Member who requires them should contribute the sum of 6 d. (six pence) annually towards the cost of printing and distributing. Payment, in stamps or otherwise, would be made to Mr. A. N. BROWN, who would forward the number of forms required post free. Members, when applying for forms, should be kind enough to state the exact number wanted.

2. *Storing of original observations.* — It is felt that no original observations made by Members of the Section, even after they have been printed in the Memoirs, ought to be destroyed. As our observations accumulate, their safe custody should be planned and discussed. A certain number of the observations of Long Period Variables have already been stored by the Assistant Secretary of the Association. It is now proposed to divide the custody of the current observations, and of those not yet printed, between the past Directors, the Hon. Secretary, and the Director of the Section, and to take a general inventory of them, in order that they may be quickly and easily communicated to interested and responsible individuals.

3. *Variable Star Section of the N. S. Wales Branch.* — Details regarding the recent activity of this Section, under the Directorship of Mr. J. J. RICHARDSON, will be communicated.

(2) REPORT ON SECOND SECTIONAL MEETING, 1923
OCTOBER 31. — The Director now begs to report upon this Meeting, which was held in the Porch Room of Sion College, London, previous to the Annual General Meeting of the Association. In addition to the Director and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. N. BROWN, eleven Members were able to attend, viz Miss Vera REYNOLDS, Colonel E. E. MARKWICK, past Director, the Rev. T. E. R. PHILLIPS, Director of the Jupiter Section, Dr. W. H. STEAVENSON, Director of the Mars Section, and Messrs. J. H. BRIDGER, C. F. BUTTERWORTH, A. JOBLING, G. H. LEPPER, E. PRENTICE, F. SARGENT, and H. WEBBER.

The following points were discussed : —

1. *Additions to the Working List.* — It was definitely agreed to add the following three stars to our Working List, in order that it might contain all the objects formerly observed at Rousdon : —

S CEPHEI S PERSEI R URSÆ MINORIS

Col. E. E. MARKWICK kindly undertook to prepare Charts and Comparison Star Lists for these three fresh stars, while Mr. C. L. BROOK had promised to furnish the necessary blue prints. The observation of these objects was to be started in 1924, in preference by Members who recently joined the Section.

A discussion followed on the extension of our Working List. It was felt that our first endeavour should be to ensure the complete, thorough and continuous observation of the 59 stars at present observed by the Section on the same lines as previously, and to print the observations of as many of them as possible in quinquennial Memoirs, publication in monthly instalments being not considered practicable for the present.

In order that no star may be neglected, any further extension of our programme must depend upon the addition of new Members to the Section. When the seven fresh stars added to our List since 1922 are well in hand (say in 1925), the Section will be prepared to consider proposals for the observation, preferably on the same plan as previously, of a limited number of other objects, in particular Long Period Variables needing thorough investigation.

It is hoped that a List of these stars may be agreed upon in common with the American and French Variable Star Associations, possibly in connexion with the Cambridge Meeting of the International Astronomical Union, 1925. Lists of Variable Stars needing observation are being prepared by the Committee on Variable Stars of the Union. Attention was called in this respect to variables on the Harvard List which appear to be insufficiently observed. In the mean time, no effort should be spared to perfect our Charts, especially as regards the faintest and brightest comparison stars.

In a letter, Dr. WHICHELLO suggested that only stars within 55° of the N. pole should be added to our Working List, so that we may get continuous records of them, particularly as to IV to VIII hour stars, which are near lower culmination at the summer solstice.

2. *Suggested alterations in form of next Memoir (1920-1924).* —

A specimen of a new Form proposed for the printing of the Tenth Memoir, kindly prepared by Mr. E. WALTER MAUNDER, was circulated and approved. It is arranged so that nine pages of the old form will be contained in five of the new, without sacrificing any detail. Several Members urged the retention of the Julian Date, which will be included. It is anticipated that even with this amount of condensation, the next Memoir will be as bulky as the last one. Its compilation was to be taken in hand at once.

3. *Col. E. E. MARKWICK's suggestions.* — In a Note which he had prepared, Col. E. E. MARKWICK, reviewing the procedure and policy of the Section in the matter of the publication of our observations, and of results, suggested: *a)* that two persons should assist the Director regularly in collecting and plotting the observations accumulating every year, in order to expedite the publication of the Annual Reports; *b)* that the printing of the observations should be dropped, and only the completely delineated Light Curves, together with a short account of each star, published.

With regard to *a)* it was remarked that Mr. A. N. BROWN is now assisting the Director in the way suggested, with excellent results; as to *b)* the opinion of the Members present was decidedly adverse to ceasing publishing the original observations, which is considered essential by most astronomers.

4. *Scope and activity of the Section.* — The announcement of the constitution of a separate Southern Variable Star Section by the N. S. Wales Branch of the Association, under Mr. J. J. RICHARDSON, was made and received with much gratification. All available help and advice will be gladly extended to our fellow Members in Australia.

(3) **NEW BLUE PRINTS, FIRST LIST.** — In September, 1923, the Director drafted a series of definite Rules for the preparation of Blue prints for Variable Stars, in the design of which the V. S. S. was the pioneer. These rules were meant to standardize for the future, as far as possible, the Blue Prints in the way of size, headings, designation, co-ordinates, scales, orientation, framing, lettering, etc., embodying the best V. S. S. traditions, and especially Col. E. E. MARKWICK's work, and conforming to the recommendations of the Committee on Variable Stars of the International Astronomical Union. Col. MARKWICK kindly revised the rules, and, after some friendly discussion, they were definitely agreed upon in December, 1923.

According to these rules, a definite current number will henceforth be affixed for future reference to every Blue print issued by the Section in the course of its work. It has been arranged that Col. MARKWICK will keep a Register for the same. Lists of new Blue prints will be published from time to time in these Circulars for the convenience of observers. In asking for Blue Prints from Mr. A. N. BROWN, who keeps them in stock, it will suffice to quote the Register numbers. The prints are very generously produced by Mr. C. L. BROOK.

The first List is as follows : —

N°	STAR	KIND OF BLUE PRINT	DRAWN BY	DATE
1	S Persei	Binocular Chart	E. E. M.	1923 Dec.
2	"	Telescopic Chart	"	1923 Dec.
3	"	Region 10' Square	"	1923 Dec.
4	"	Comparison Star List	"	1924 Jan.
5	R Ursae Minoris	Binocular Chart	"	1923 Dec.
6	"	Telescopic Chart	"	1924 Jan.
7	"	Comparison Star List	"	1924 Jan.
8	S Cephei	Binocular Chart	"	1924 Jan.
9	"	Telescopic Chart	"	1924 Jan.
10	"	Region 10' Square	"	1924 July
11	"	Comparison Star List	"	1924 Jan.

(4) **FAINT COMPARISON STARS.** — A List of photometric magnitudes of faint comparison stars for **R** and **W ANDROMEDÆ**, **R, S,** and **V CYGNI**, **U GEMINORUM**, and **R VULPECULAE**, determined by Professors S. A. MITCHELL, and Harold L. ALDEN at the Leander McCormick Observatory, Charlottesville, Va., U. S. A., has recently been received, and will prove very valuable in the proposed issue of new Regions 10' Square for several of our stars. Professors MITCHELL and ALDEN have kindly promised further help in other cases, and their useful co-operation in this respect is gratefully acknowledged.

(5) **MIRA CETI.** — It is proposed, in reducing for final publication our observations of α (**MIRA**) **CETI**, to account in some cases for atmospheric extinction.

Will observers of this star in future record the time of observation (whole Greenwich hours will suffice) when observing it with the naked eye or with binoculars ?

(6) **THE DIRECTOR'S NEW ADDRESS.** — Will Members kindly note the Director's change of address, to

Rue Herry, 26
DEURNE, *Antwerp.*

(7) **ERRATUM.** — In Circular 5, p. 16, line 24, delete **U GEMINORUM.**

FELIX DE ROY.
Director.