

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto,

FOR THE YEAR 1896,

INCLUDING SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.



PRICE ONE DOLLAR.



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Printers to the Society.

1897.

and formally moved, seconded by Mr. Z. M. Collins, that the officers of 1896 be nominated for another year. This was carried.

The attendance being below the average, on account of the very severe weather, a paper prepared by Mr. G. E. Lumsden was postponed until the next meeting, and the evening was spent in a discussion of the various plans which had been from time to time proposed, for rendering the Society still more prosperous and its work still more effective.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Seventh Annual Meeting was held January 5th, 1897. The Vice-President, Mr. Arthur Harvey, F.R.S.C., occupied the chair.

Miss M. T. Scott, of Toronto, was duly elected an active member; and Mr. Henry Harrison, of Jersey City, N.J., an associate member.

The Chairman declared the officers of 1896 elected to continue in office during 1897, there being no other nominations.

Mr. James Todhunter then read the following

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

Receipts:

Balance on hand . . . January 2, 1896	\$351 59
Fees Collected.	103 00
Interest, etc	6 18
Provincial Grant	200 00
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	\$660 77

Disbursements:

Publication Account	\$204 70
Sundry Expenses.	161 84
Cash in Bank.	294 23
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	\$660 77

In submitting a statement of receipts and disbursements for the year just ended, the seventh of our history as an incorporated body, it has been deemed advisable to present to the members and friends interested in the progress of science in Canada a brief statement of our financial affairs. The Provincial Government has dealt with us in the same liberal way as in former years, but the growth of the Society has been such as to render the annual grant inadequate to permit of the effectively

carrying out of our aims and objects. Amongst these are the possession of instrumental equipment for observations and for research in experimental science ; the purchase of additions to the Library, and the creation of a fund which may eventually enable us to undertake the establishment of a popular observatory in Toronto.

While in the past our income from members' subscriptions has been sufficient to meet incidental and clerical expenses, the necessity of which latter the growth of the Society's work has necessitated, it is a matter of regret that the receipts from the same source have this year been inadequate to meet the demands, so that while the Government grant may cover the cost of publication for 1896, it is quite necessary that we make an effort in some way to increase our paying membership this year. We have had ten new members during the past year, and have now about 110 active members on the roll, many of whom, however, do not come to our meetings and are also allowing their fees to get into arrears. If we could have some way of reaching such either by circular or otherwise we might be able to induce them to take a greater interest in the Society and attend the meetings more regularly. We have had a number of very valuable books, etc., presented to the Library during the past year by members and friends, whose names have been recorded in the minutes of the Society from time to time.

JAMES TODHUNTER,

31st December, 1896.

Treasurer.

The financial statement having been duly certified to by the Auditors, it was on motion adopted.

Mr. W. B. Musson then read the following

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

MR. PRESIDENT,—In presenting this annual report, I would draw attention to the fact that, not the least important work being done by this Society is the collection and preservation of a valuable and ever increasing library upon those subjects, the study of which, it is the special object of the Society to promote. For this Library we have been mainly indebted in the past to the generosity of friends and to the courtesy of those observatories and societies whose publications we have received. It is suggested, however, that in addition to this a certain proportion of the Society's funds should be annually appropriated for the purchase of such books or periodicals as may be deemed advisable, and I

trust this matter may be taken into consideration. It is to be regretted that we are not yet in a position to incur the expense of a completely equipped reading room with an attendant in charge, but this difficulty has been overcome as far as possible by an arrangement allowing members, under certain conditions, access to the book shelves for purposes of reference, and I am glad to say that in the matter of accommodation we are in a much better position than formerly, a separate room having been secured for a Library and furnished with tables, chairs and writing materials.

A partial catalogue of books was prepared for use of members, and a limited number of copies distributed, in addition to which a subject index—as complete as circumstances would allow—has been placed in the Library for reference. It is regretted that, both in regard to indexing and printed catalogues, it has been impossible to make the work as complete as could be desired, but I trust this defect may be remedied with the growth of the Society.

Since the beginning of the year there have been bound some forty-three volumes, including such repairing as was found necessary. The Library now numbers over 300 volumes, consisting of works on physics, general and mathematical astronomy, and scientific instruments, in addition to the following publications:—

- Greenwich Observations.
- Washington Observations.
- Publications of the Lick Observatory.
- “ “ Harvard College Observatory.
- “ “ Yerkes “
- “ “ Yale College “
- “ “ Columbia College “
- “ “ Canton “
- “ “ Cincinnati “
- “ “ U. S. Naval “
- “ “ Toronto Magnetic “
- “ “ Paris “
- The British Nautical Almanac.
- The American “ “
- The Atlantic Coasters’ Nautical Almanac.
- The Pacific “ “ “
- The Monthly Weather Review.
- Iowa Weather and Crop Service.
- Proceedings, British Astronomical Association.
- “ Royal Astronomical Society.
- “ Royal Society, London.

Proceedings Royal Society, Edinburgh.

“ “ “ Canada.

Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Astronomical Society, Wales.

Leeds Astronomical Society.

New York Academy Sciences.

Wisconsin Academy of Sciences.

Nova Scotia Institute.

Canadian Institute.

Hamilton Association.

Smithsonian Institution.

Italian Society of Spectroscopists.

Of periodical literature we have :—

The Sidereal Messenger.

Astronomy and Astro-Physics.

Astro-Physical Journal.

Astronomical Register.

Knowledge.

The Observer.

Science.

Science Siftings.

To the above should be added a large number of monographs on astronomical subjects.

The number of books and magazines borrowed during the year has been about 100.

Before closing this report, I desire to express my obligation to the Corresponding Secretary for the very willing assistance he has given me in regard to correspondence connected with Library matters; and also to Mr. J. R. Collins, for assistance rendered in various ways.

W. B. MUSSON,

Librarian.

On motion, the Librarian's report was adopted.

The Corresponding Secretary then briefly reviewed the correspondence carried on during the year with friends of the Society in various parts of the world.

The business being concluded, reports of observational work were received from several members and correspondents, after which Mr. G. E. Lumsden presented a paper on "Scientific Terminology," which evoked a most interesting discussion. It was strongly held that it is not

necessary to introduce into the language of science words which are almost purely Greek or Latin. Without in any way regarding lightly the studying of the classics, Mr. Lumsden still thought that the English language was rich enough to meet all the requirements of science. Some of the members were opposed to this view, but the paper had some strong supporters, especially when it touched upon the science of botany.

On the conclusion of the discussion it was announced that the next meeting would be specially convened for the purpose of hearing the annual address of the President, and the proceedings of the year 1896 were brought to a close by adjournment.
