

Quant à la langue adoptée pour la bibliographie, M. Pelseener proposa les cinq langues suivantes: anglais, allemand, français, italien, espagnol. Pour les publications non rédigées dans l'une de ces langues une traduction du titre et du résumé sera donnée dans l'une de ces cinq langues. L'opinion des membres présents s'est montrée favorable à cette proposition.

COMMISSION 6 (TELEGRAMS)

PRESIDENT: Dr H. SPENCER JONES.

SECRETARY: Dr LOUIS C. GREEN.

The Commission approved the report of the Director of the Bureau and asked for an annual grant of 1200 gold francs to the Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams until the next meeting of the Union.

COMMISSION 8 (MERIDIAN ASTRONOMY)

PRESIDENT: Dr J. JACKSON.

SECRETARY: Dr G. VAN HERK.

Commission 8 of meridian astronomy met on Friday, August 5, at 10^h 30^m.

On request of the President some supplementary remarks were made on the subjects mentioned in his report. Since the President's report was written a few more reports have come in, viz. from Pulkovo, stating that fundamental work is still carried on and that the trials of an automatic registration of star transits with a photoelectric cell connected with the Bamberg instrument are successful for stars down to the magnitude 5.7; from Tokyo, saying that fundamental stars are being observed in connection with the bright minor planets; from Prof. Leuschner a paper by Mr Herrick on standard coordinates on photographic plates and the transformation from one plate to another.

Prof. Boss remarked that the proper motions from the Albany General Catalogue give consistent results for solar motion with regard to a subdivision to types and magnitudes. The hope was expressed that in future the calibration of the barometers and thermometers used, will be given in the introductions to observational results in order to facilitate computations on refraction researches. Dr Jackson remarked that the Leiden azimuth instrument gave declinations free from refraction. A statement was made that plans for improving the Leiden instrument for determining declinations from azimuth observations will be realized in the near future. The differences Leiden minus G.C. declinations show the same general line as is the case with the P.G.C. declinations, the numbers being only about 0".30 smaller.

Dr A. Lambert gave an account of the present state of the work done in France and Belgium on faint galactic stars. From the 4800 stars in all, about 1000 have been observed now. The hope is expressed that some southern observatory will join in the work.

The Astronomer Royal gave an account of the work being done in Greenwich with the new transit instrument. If one uses the pivot telescope the lens should be

brought into different positions to get rid of spurious errors due to tilt. It is important to have each pivot tested as well by a Krupp microtest gauge which gives an accuracy to about 1μ . The instability of the frame carrying the moving wire has been completely removed now. In the discussion it was put forward that pivot errors and pivot flexure are to be taken into account.

A method of getting more independent bisections with the automatic travelling wire was described. The wire is purposely brought off the star and put on it again after a contact has come through. It was remarked that it is better to have a greater field over which the stars are followed than to have a great number of contacts per revolution. Anomalies will then be better eliminated. The Greenwich instrument has a glass circle. The circle is about 1 inch thick and is 28 inches in diameter. The divisions are very clear. Care has been taken to compensate for extension due to temperature changes.

It was finally remarked that changes in the collimator with temperature may find their origin in different housing of collimators and meridian instrument.

Dr Moreau described the new meridian circle at Uccle. There is one circle of platinum-palladium, which is a very fine one; the other circle of "monelle", an alloy of iron, nickel and copper, has however many irregularities on its surface and has to be cleaned regularly. The reading of the microscopes is done photographically as inaugurated at Bergedorf. The pointings at the instrument micrometer are recorded by printing. There is no special advantage in having all the microscope photographs on the same film.

An account was given of a trial at the Askania Works to have the observations with the nadir basin supplemented by observations with a zenith mirror, the telescope being directed towards the zenith in the latter case. The mirror is floating in a ring-shaped mercury basin. In order to refer the measurements to the true horizon the measurements have to be done twice with the mirror turned 180° . The accuracy of the results so far obtained is not completely satisfactory as one does not yet come under one second of arc.

COMMISSION 9 (INSTRUMENTS)

ACTING PRESIDENT: Dr A. COUDER.

SECRETARY: Prof. H. CHRÉTIEN.

La Commission s'est réunie le 5 août 1938, à 11 heures.

La Commission examine en premier lieu la proposition de Mme Ed. Chandon suggérant qu'une enquête soit ouverte auprès des spécialistes des diverses disciplines astronomiques, sur les qualités exigées de l'œil, sur leurs mesures et leurs tolérances.

Les membres présents sont d'avis de demander à Mme Chandon de développer ses propositions, lesquelles seraient soumises, par voie de circulaire, aux membres de la Commission.

M. J. Svoboda donne des explications détaillées sur les déterminations d'équation personnelle dans les observations de passages dont il a été question dans le rapport préliminaire; il indique que l'erreur personnelle diminue quand la vitesse croît, et d'autre part qu'elle dépend, dans une certaine mesure, de la magnitude des étoiles et de leur coloration.