

(24) & (25) JOINT MEETING.

At a joint meeting of the Commissions on Stellar Photometry and on Stellar Parallax, held on July 18, the following resolution was passed:

"That Commissions Nos. 24 and 25, recognising the value of the determination of the trigometrical parallaxes of faint stars, urges upon photometric observers the importance of the determination of the magnitudes and colour equivalents of the faint stars which are included in parallax programmes."

(26) DOUBLE STARS.

The Commission met on Friday, July 17th, 1925. In the absence of the President, Dr. R. G. Aitken, the chair was taken by Dr. J. Jackson. Prof. H. H. Van den Bos acted as Secretary.

The Commission strongly recommended that a second grant of 6,000 francs be made to Dr. R. G. Aitken, Lick Observatory, for the Central Office (Extension of Burnham's General Catalogue; clerical work of the office).^{*} Dr. Aitken hoped that funds would be available for printing the new catalogue by 1927. With respect to the proposal for publishing orbital elements of double stars in the Nautical Almanac and similar publications, the Commission agreed that such publications were not the most suitable, but that such a catalogue revised or extended every five or ten years would be useful, and that such a periodical as the Lick Bulletins would be suitable. Dr. Luplau-Janssen stated that he was in correspondence with Dr. Aitken on the matter, and had a catalogue of all orbits computed up to date.

Dr. Voûte proposed the following motion, which was adopted by the Commission:—

"In view of the success obtained by some observers in eliminating systematic errors in position angle by means of the reversing prism, according to the method first proposed by Salet and Bosler, this simple and effective device is strongly recommended to all double star observers."

As to the question of a sub-office in the Southern Hemisphere, the Commission was of opinion that such an office was actually in existence at Johannesburg.

Dr. Smart intimated that photographic measures of double stars will be started at Cambridge with the Sheepshanks Equatorial.

Dr. Abetti described a new type of interferometer, which is being tried in Italy. The Chairman added some remarks about the experience on interferometer work obtained at the Lick and Yerkes Observatories.

Dr. Hertzsprung suggested that faint stars of large proper motion or other stars of possibly large parallax be investigated for duplicity.

(27) VARIABLE STARS.

Dr. Shapley, President of the Commission, presided over three well-attended meetings, and presented the Preliminary Report (p. 99) for discussion.

A sub-committee was appointed to consider the question of co-operation between observers of the stars in Appendix B, List 1. The sub-committee later

^{*} At a meeting of the Executive Committee, Prof. Campbell stated that the necessary funds would be provided by the Lick Observatory.