COMMISSION 26 (DOUBLE STARS)

PRESIDENT: Prof. E. HERTZSPRUNG.
SECRETARY: Dr G. P. KUIPER.

The President pointed out that since several members of the Commission were absent no resolutions would be proposed. He drew attention to the great activity in the field of double stars of the Union Observatory, and invited its Director, Dr Wood, who was present at the meeting, to give an account of the recent work by van den Bos and Finsen. Dr Wood said that the Johannesburg double-star survey was now finished, so that more time had become available for other programmes such as that of the systematic measurement of known pairs, and of the examination for duplicity of stars of large proper motion.

Dr Luyten reported on the results of his Bruce survey of proper motions in the southern sky, which was now completed. Nearly 1000 pairs were found with common proper motion exceeding about 0″·05 per annum.

Dr Kuiper made some remarks on the orbit of the short-period binary BD–8° 4352, found by him in 1934. The period is about 1·72 years, the apparent orbit nearly circular. He also mentioned that most of the stars of large known parallax north of −20° had been examined for duplicity, but that much remained still to be done for stars for which only the proper motions are known to be large.

Dr Hertzsprung stated that the 180 plates with double-star photographs obtained by him in the fall of 1937 with the 36-inch refractor of the Lick Observatory had all been measured. The results showed the usual satisfactory accuracy, the mean error of each co-ordinate being ±0″·01 per plate.

There was no further discussion. The Draft Report was unanimously adopted.

COMMISSION 27 (VARIABLE STARS)

ACTING PRESIDENT: Mr H. GROUILLER.
SECRETARY: Dr FÉLIX DE ROY.

La Commission rend un hommage ému à la mémoire de son ancien Président, feu le Prof. Nijland, décédé depuis la dernière Assemblée Générale. Le Président de séance rappelle que Nijland appartenait à ce groupe de pionniers que l'on peut considérer comme les successeurs directs d'Argelander et de ses élèves; il s'est distingué, parmi ceux-là, par le soin extrême de ses innombrables observations et par la haute tenue de leurs résultats qu'il publiait avec une rare diligence.

Le Président de séance remercie le Prof. J. Hellerich, qui veut bien servir d'interprète pour la langue allemande. Il salue la présence du vénérable doyen de la Commission, le Prof. H. Ludendorff.

Sur la proposition du Président de séance, la Commission vote à l'unanimité et envoie au Comité Exécutif pour présentation à la Commission des Finances, la résolution suivante:

"Que la subvention annuelle accordée à M. Banachiewicz pour la publication des éphémérides des étoiles doubles à éclipses soit continuée à raison de huit cents francs or."

La Commission décide de publier en Appendice I du Rapport de son Président la