

## Circulars issued by the Provisional Committee.

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The two following circulars are the second of the two circulars, and the accompanying letter referred to in the preceding Report as having been issued by the Provisional Committee. Copies of these and of the other documents mentioned in the Report were laid on the table at the General Meeting on October 24.

### I.

#### THE BRITISH ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

This Society has been formed to secure the more thorough co-operation of Astronomical Observers throughout the country, and at the same time to meet the wishes and requirements of many, who, though taking a high interest in Astronomy, have found themselves precluded by one cause or another from joining the Royal Astronomical Society. Its leading features are as follows :—

**MEMBERSHIP.**—Open to all persons interested in Astronomy, ladies as well as gentlemen.

**HEAD-QUARTERS.**—To be fixed in London.

**ENTRANCE FEE.**—Five shillings. This is optional for all Members joining before January 1st, 1891.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.**—Half - a - guinea; or Members may compound by a single payment of six guineas.

**OBJECTS.**—The association of observers, especially the possessors of small telescopes, for mutual help, and their organization in the work of astronomical observation. The circulation of current astronomical information. The encouragement of a popular interest in Astronomy.

**METHODS.**—The arrangement of Members for the work of observation in sections, or departments of observation, under experienced directors. The publication, at short and regular intervals, of a journal containing reports of the Society's meetings, and of its observing sections; papers by Members; and notes on current Astronomy. The holding of meetings, not only in London, but also at provincial centres, wherever the number of Members justifies it, and the Members themselves desire it.

**MANAGEMENT.**—By the usual Officers and a Council, of which the Directors of the sections are to be *ex officio* Members, the other Members being elected by the Society; Members at a distance from London voting by post. Members of the

Council, precluded from attending the meetings of the Council, are to be punctually and fully informed of the business transacted there, and in all important matters in which such a course is practicable, are to be invited to communicate their views to the Secretary, for submission to the Council meetings. A paid Secretary to be engaged for the routine work of the Society.

### Provisional Committee.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF ROSSE, B.A., LL.D., D.C.L.,  
F.R.S., F.R.A.S.

T. W. Backhouse, F.R.A.S.	Mrs. Huggins.
J. Bartlett, M.A.	H. Ingall, F.R.A.S.
Rev. John Bone, F.R.A.S.	Rev. S. J. Johnson, M.A., F.R.A.S.
D. Booth.	J. Harvey Jones, F.R.A.S.
Miss Brown.	S. T. Klein, F.L.S., F.R.A.S.
G. Calver, F.R.A.S.	Ed. Ball Knobel, F.R.A.S.
Miss Agnes Clerke.	T. Lewis, F.R.A.S.
G. S. Criswick, F.R.A.S.	Major E. E. Markwick, F.R.A.S.
G. T. Davis.	E. Walter Maunder, F.R.A.S.
A. M. W. Downing, M.A., F.R.A.S.	W. H. Maw, F.R.A.S.
P. F. Duke, F.R.A.S.	Arthur Mee, F.R.A.S.
T. G. Elger, F.R.A.S.	W. H. S. Monck, M.A., F.R.A.S.
Rev. T. E. Espin, B.A., F.R.A.S.	Capt. W. Noble, F.R.A.S.
W. S. Franks, F.R.A.S.	J. A. Westwood Oliver.
W. H. St. Quintin Gage, F.R.A.S.	Rev. T. Perkins, M.A., F.R.A.S.
Miss Agnes Giberne.	James G. Petrie, F.R.A.S.
J. E. Gore, M.R.I.A., F.R.A.S.	C. L. Prince, F.R.A.S.
N. E. Green, F.R.A.S.	G. M. Seabroke, F.R.A.S.
Sir Howard Grubb, F.R.S., M.I.C.E.I., F.R.A.S.	Wm. Schooling, F.R.A.S.
H. Grattan Guinness, D.D.	K. J. Tarrant, F.R.A.S.
Jno. Haswell, M.A., D.C.L.	Arthur W. Thomson, B.Sc.
H. P. Hollis, B.A., F.R.A.S.	Rev. W. R. Waugh, F.R.A.S.
Rev. F. Howlett, M.A., F.R.A.S.	W. H. Wesley.
W. Huggins, LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S.	A. Stanley Williams, F.R.A.S.

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All communications for the present to be addressed to the Secretaries (pro tem.):—

E. WALTER MAUNDER, Hyde House, Ulundi Road, Blackheath, S.E.; or  
T. FRID MAUNDER, 55, Sydney Road, Brixton, S.W.

OCT. 1890.]

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

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## II.

Hyde House,  
Ulundi Road, Blackheath, S.E.,  
September, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

THE great success attained at one time by the Liverpool Astronomical Society, in spite of its local title, appears to show that there is a real need for a Society beside the Royal Astronomical Society, and on somewhat different lines. In order, therefore, to supply this want in a wider manner, a Provisional Committee, numbering nearly fifty names, has been formed, and has already taken the necessary preliminary steps to start such a Society, and a large number of Members have already been enrolled.

The principal objects that we seek to secure by means of the new Society are as follow :—

- (1.) To meet the wishes and requirements of those who find the subscription of the Royal Astronomical Society too high, or its papers too advanced ; or, who are, as in the case of ladies, practically excluded from becoming Fellows.
- (2.) To afford a means of direction and organisation in the work of observation to amateur Astronomers.

The Royal Astronomical Society receives papers and observations, but does not undertake the work of direction. The intention of the new Society, therefore, is to occupy ground not covered by the Royal Astronomical Society, and by no means to encroach on the functions it has so well fulfilled during the greater part of a century. We should, above all things, deprecate any idea of rivalry with the older and more advanced Society, even if such rivalry were possible. On the contrary, we hope that the new enterprise may even, as a training ground for new Fellows, be a source of some additional strength to it.

We enclose a circular, and shall be happy to answer any inquiries, and to receive your name should you desire to become a Member.

We are, Dear Sir,  
Your obedient Servants,  
E. WALTER MAUNDER,  
T. FRID MAUNDER,  
*Hon. Secs. (pro tem.)*