

observation—the Greenwich or local time should be given with more or less accuracy, as well as the apparent clearness of atmosphere and state of the sky. If the result of a series of observations, some at least of the most remarkable should be selected, and the times, circumstances, and conditions of atmosphere when they were severally made, should be fully stated. If these particulars be generally noted and communicated, the value of such contributions will be greatly enhanced.

The Council, having duly considered that it would be for the interests of astronomy, and of the Society to distribute freely the Proceedings to non-members at a small charge, have resolved that in future the *Monthly Notices* may be obtained by application to the Assistant-Secretary, at the price of one shilling for each number, or ten shillings for the session, which in the latter instance includes the postage within the limits of the United Kingdom.

*Government Aid to the Cultivation of the Physics of Astronomy.*

After long and careful consideration of this subject, extending over four meetings, two of which were especially convened for the purpose, and including the discussion of points importantly affecting as well the interests of science as the dignity of this Society, your Council by a large majority passed the following resolutions on the 28th of June, 1872:—

1. That the President be authorised, on behalf of the Council and Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society, to bring before the Royal Commissioners on Scientific Instruction and on the Advancement of Science now sitting, the importance of further aid being afforded to the cultivation of the Physics of Astronomy.

2. They think such aid would be most effectually given by increased assistance, where needed, to existing Public Observatories, in the direction recommended by the heads of those Observatories, especially that at the Cape of Good Hope, and by the establishment of a new Observatory on the Highlands of India, or in some other part of the British dominions where the climate is favourable for the use of large instruments.

3. The Council do not recommend the establishment of an independent Government Observatory for the cultivation of Astronomical Physics in England, especially as they have been informed that the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, at their recent meeting, recommended the taking of photographic and spectroscopic records of the Sun at that Observatory.

OBITUARY.

The deaths of the following Fellows and Associates have been reported to the Council since the last Anniversary,—

Honorary Member :—Mrs. Mary Somerville.