

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL
AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SPECTROSCOPY
AND ASTRONOMICAL PHYSICS

GEORGE E. HALE
JAMES E. KEELER
EDITORS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

KENWOOD OBSERVATORY

CHICAGO, April 16 1895

My dear Professor Tacchini,

Accept my
thanks for your letter of Mar. 29, giving
an account of your observations
on the distribution of solar phenomena
in 1894. I shall be glad to translate
it for publication in the Journal.

As I have as yet received no reply
to the two letters I sent you in regard
to the standards of wave-length etc.
I fear that neither of them reached
you. I therefore enclose another blank
form for voting. You will greatly favor
me by filling out the blanks with your
votes, and returning it to me ^{as soon as possible}. I have
received the votes of all the other
editors, and as soon as yours arrives
I intend to write an article on the
subject for publication in the Journal.

Mrs. Hale unites with me in kindest regards to you
yours very sincerely George E. Hale

M I N U T E S
of a
MEETING of the EDITORIAL BOARD
of
THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL,
at the
Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York,
on
November 2, 1894.
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The Editorial Board of the Astrophysical Journal met by agreement at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, on Friday, Nov. 2, 1894, at 12 M., to discuss matters relating to the proposed new journal. Present were Messrs. Young, Hastings, Rowland, Michelson, Pickering, Hale, Keeler; also Professor Rees as visitor. On motion of Prof. Hale, Prof. Pickering was elected Chairman. Prof. Keeler was then chosen as Secretary.

Prof. Hale made a statement of the general plan of the proposed journal, and related the history of the events which led to its inception. The plan had been formed by him more than three years ago, but for various reasons it could not be carried out at that time, and he had instead formed a coalition with the "Sideral Messenger," the result of which was "Astronomy and Astro-Physics." He had not, however, abandoned the original plan, for which, on a recent trip to Europe, he had secured the co-operation of prominent spectroscopists abroad. It was the opinion of these gentlemen that the journal should be purely astrophysical, as the interests of the older astronomy were already sufficiently provided for. Professor Hale also read a statement which it was proposed to print in the December number of "Astronomy and Astro-Physics." He exhibited some specimen title pages which had been prepared by the editors (Hale and Keeler), the title as printed being,

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL,
An International Review of Astronomical Physics
and Spectroscopy.

The question of the title was then taken up for discussion. Professors Rowland and Young thought that special stress should be laid in the title on the spectroscopic character of the journal. The Chairman suggested that the title and the sub-titles should be decided upon separately. Prof. Hastings

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moved that the title as printed in the specimens should be adopted. After some discussion, the motion was carried by unanimous vote. On motion of Professor Young, it was resolved that the word "Spectroscopy" in the sub-title should precede "Astronomical Physics," in order to give greater prominence to the spectroscopical department, the title adopted being, therefore,

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL,
An International Review of Spectroscopy
and Astronomical Physics.

On motion of Prof. Young, seconded by Prof. Hastings, it was resolved that in every number of the journal should be printed a general statement of its scope, embodying a definition of "Astrophysics," as understood by the editorial management.

Specific questions relating to the publication of the journal were then taken up, and first the question of how many numbers should be published annually. The editors stated that, according to their experience with "Astronomy and Astro-Physics," there was usually a marked falling off in the supply of suitable material during the summer months. After some discussion, it was resolved, on motion of Prof. Hastings, that ten monthly numbers should be published for the first year, the months omitted to be left to the discretion of the editors.

On motion of Professor Rowland, it was resolved that the size of the page should be that of the samples exhibited (about 7 X 10 in.).

On motion of several members, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 P. M. for lunch.

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AFTERNOON SESSION.

After examining specimens of work brought by the different members, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:45 P. M.

Prof. Hale read a statement defining the scope of the journal, which it is proposed to print in each number, but said he had not had time to prepare one which was satisfactory.

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Prof. Michelson moved that Messrs. Hale and Keeler be appointed a committee to draw up a statement which could afterwards be submitted to the other members of the board by mail. The motion was carried.

On motion of Prof. Hastings, it was resolved that the number of pages in each number should not be fixed, but should be left to the discretion of the editors.

The question whether papers previously published in other journals should be reprinted, and whether translations should be made of papers in foreign languages, was brought up by Prof. Hale, and, on his motion, it was resolved that the English language should be used in the journal, except in cases where another course should seem desirable to the editors. The motion was carried. On motion of Professor Young, seconded by Professor Hastings, it was resolved that matter printed elsewhere should be used, either in full or abstract, at the discretion of the editors. It was the general opinion of the meeting that the journal should include, as far as possible, everything of importance done throughout the world and coming within its scope.

The arrangement of the cover was then brought up for discussion. On motion of Prof. Rowland, it was resolved that the names of the editors of different classes should be printed on the first page of the cover, as in the specimen exhibited, and that the table of contents should be printed on the fourth page. On motion of Prof. Hale, it was resolved that the title or abridged title of a paper should be printed at the top of the right hand page, and the name of the author at the top of the left hand page. Without coming to a vote, preference was expressed by the members for paging reprints as in the original articles, and for printing in a foot-note the original titles of translated papers.

Professor Rowland moved that when it seemed to be advisable, the title or station of an author should be printed, either after the title of his paper or in a foot note, for the purpose of conveying information as to the circumstances under which his work was carried on. The motion was carried.

On motion of Prof. Michelson, it was resolved that the author of a paper be furnished with 25 copies of his paper, in covers, free of cost, if he should desire them, and that additional copies be furnished at cost price.

On motion of Prof. Hale, it was resolved that each of the

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different classes of editors receive one free copy of the journal.

On motion of Prof. Hastings, it was resolved that proof shall be sent to authors for correction, provided a request to that effect accompanies their MSS.

On motion of Prof. Hale, the price of the journal was fixed at \$4.00, the present subscription price of "Astronomy and Astro-Physics."

Suggestions by Prof. Frost (who was unable to be present) were read, and the questions raised were left to the discretion of the editors.

Professor Hale moved that in printing maps of spectra, the red end be placed on the right, and in tables, the small wave-lengths should be placed at the top. An interesting discussion followed. Professor Pickering said that he was ready to adopt either method, both for the journal and for the Harvard Observatory publications, and that he should be glad to hear the opinion of the different members on the subject. In the plates accompanying the Draper Catalogue, the red was placed on the right. Prof. Keeler thought that the tendency in modern practice was decidedly toward placing the red end on the right, and for that reason he had accustomed himself to that method of regarding the spectrum. He considered that the publication of Rowland's maps and tables had practically settled the question. Prof. Hastings thought of the spectrum with the red end on the left, but regarded the other method as preferable. The custom of placing the red on the left, which is still followed by some authors, originated with Kirchhoff, but the practice was reversed by Angstrom. (The Secretary probably made some mistake in recording Prof. Hastings's remarks, as Kirchhoff placed the red end on the right). Professor Hale said that he was accustomed to regard the lower spectrum and the ultra-violet in exactly opposite ways, - an illogical habit which he had no wish to defend. Prof. Rowland said that with the concave grating, the wave-lengths were proportional to the distance from the slit, and with his construction of the apparatus, the red end of the spectrum would naturally be on the right.

The question was then put and the motion was carried.

It was suggested that these questions should also be submitted to the foreign associate editors, and their opinions requested.

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Professor Michelson moved that the Board of Editors recommend the adoption of Prof. Rowland's scale of wave-lengths as the standard for the new journal, and the motion was carried.

On motion of Prof. Hastings, it was resolved that in the journal, wave-lengths shall be printed with a unit of one ten-millionth of a millimeter (Angstrom's unit).

On motion of Prof. Hale, it was resolved that Vogel's nomenclature of the hydrogen lines should be adopted, and that for simplicity in printing, the Greek letters should be placed on the same line with the letter H.

On motion of Prof. Keeler, the kilometer was adopted as the unit of motion in the line of sight.

Professor Pickering explained the nature and origin of a certain difficulty in designating stars in the southern hemisphere when the zones of the Southern Durchmusterung and the Cordova Durchmusterung overlap. The difficulty was principally felt in printing tabular matter. In accordance with the plan which seemed most desirable to Prof. Pickering, Prof. Hastings moved that the letters D.M. should be used for both catalogues as a general designation, and that when the zones overlap, the distinction between the Bonn and the Cordova catalogues should be indicated by printing the Cordova numbers in italics. The motion was carried.

On motion of Prof. Hale, the Century Dictionary was chosen as the standard of spelling for the new journal, departures from the standard being allowed, however, in special cases, at the discretion of the editors.

Professor Michelson said that the meeting had been so pleasant in every respect that he should be glad to look forward to another one of the same kind, and he therefore moved that the Editorial Board meet about a year from the present time, at a place to be named hereafter, for the discussion of current topics connected with the policy of the journal. The motion was unanimously carried.

On motion of a member, the meeting was adjourned.

JAMES E. KEELER, Secretary.