E. J. Stone, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Robert T. Pett, Esq., Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope,
was balloted for, and duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

Remarks on the Instructions for Observing the Transit of Venus formulated by the Paris International Conference. By Professor Simon Newcomb.

The recommendations of the Conference which met at Paris in October 1881 are entitled to such weight, both on account of the eminence of the astronomers who took part, and the advantages they naturally derived from mutual discussion, that I have hesitated in suggesting any possible improvement of their carefully-prepared instructions. This hesitation has been increased by the fact that my suggestions cannot now, as I should desire, be criticised by the Conference, to which I should have been glad to submit them. I submit them now to the Royal Astronomical Society with the hope that they will receive that critical discussion by all astronomers interested which alone can lead to a decision of all the questions involved.

The strongest reason for this course is, that as the entire Transit is visible on this continent, it is not improbable that the observations by astronomers in this country will exceed in number those made by the expeditions to be sent out by foreign Governments. The question whether American observers shall