EDWIN DUNKIN, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Robert Stuart Calcott, 1 Bath Place, Kensington, W.; and
Samuel Johnson, M.B. (Edin.), 23 Gloucester Terrace,
Hyde Park, W.;

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

Notes on Mr. Stone's Explanation of the Errors of Hansen's Lunar Tables. By Professor Simon Newcomb.

The courtesy afforded me by the Royal Astronomical Society in publishing my questions respecting Mr. Stone's theory, which appeared in the March number of its Notices, leads me to enter a little more fully into the case, and to show the very important bearing which those questions have upon the applicability of the theory.

Mr. Stone is understood to maintain that no one has answered his arguments. To answer an argument one must first understand it; and I frankly confess that this is more than I have been able to do. In particular I have been entirely unable to master the reasonings and equations found on p. 336 of vol. xliii. and p. 220, vol. xlv. But the value of an argument depends largely upon its conclusions; and it is the defect in this respect which I wish to point out.

So far as Hansen's Tables are concerned Mr. Stone has not even attempted to make out a logical case. This will be made clear by showing what his conclusion is, and how alone it can be proved. I understand the conclusion to be—

"That the increasing errors in Hansen's Tables of the Moon since 1864 arise from the substitution of Le Verrier's Solar Tables for Carlini's in the British Nautical Almanac for 1864 and subsequent years."