J. W. L. Glaisher, Sc.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Thomas Bauchope, East Brucefield, West Calder, Scotland, was balloted for and duly elected a Fellow of the Society.


This apparatus was planned with a view of determining absolute personal equations, the variations of personal equation depending upon the direction of movement, the velocity, and the magnitude of the star observed, and personality in observations of limbs of the Sun, Moon, or planets. It was arranged that the transit-circle should be used for the determinations, and a point which I specially aimed at was that the conditions of the ordinary observations of the heavenly bodies should be reproduced as closely as possible. Generally speaking, this personal equation machine is on the lines of that devised by M. C. Wolf, and described by him in vol. viii. of the Annales de l'Observatoire de Paris; but, as the objects in view were somewhat different, various modifications in the general plan were introduced. Amongst these may be mentioned the much larger dimensions of the apparatus (in consequence of which it is not necessary to use a lens of short focus to form a diminished image of the artificial object), the use of the transit-circle micrometer for adjustment of the contacts to the true transit over the wires, and the use of reflected sunlight, moonlight, or diffused daylight, instead of lamplight. This being premised, I proceed to describe the construction of the apparatus, which was made by Messrs. Troughton & Simms with their usual skill.

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