

BULLETIN

of

The British Interplanetary Society

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D. Sc.



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OCTOBER MEETING DEBATE

We regret that space does not allow a more detailed report than the following.

The arranged debate, held on October 5, upon the motion "That the venue of this Society be moved from the Moon to New York," was a huge success. Professor A. M. Low, opening the meeting with several humorous anecdotes, emphasised the seriousness of the discussion and requested members to state their views however controversial or heated.

Mr. Carnell, proposing the motion, pointed out the overwhelming effort upon the lay public the knowledge of a Moon flight would have, and suggested the world would not be prepared for such a vast stride so suddenly. He also pointed out the probable effects such a sudden venture might have upon world Governments. Mr. R. A. Smith, seconding the motion, mentioned that many famous scientists would be required on the Technical Staff before adequate financial support would be forthcoming for a lunar trip, and went on to briefly sum up space travel springing from a parent industry only after much had been learned from a small beginning.

Mr. Edwards, opening the Opposition, technically annihilated the New York trip. He pointed out that, upon a lunar trip, the navigator would have about three days to make his orbit calculations and other technical observations, whereas he would only have *ten minutes* on the New York trip; 20 out of 30 minutes flight being absorbed by the take-off and landing. Also, he stated that the large area of repulsion gases used in landing, would quite possibly wipe out New York City should there be any error in calculations. Mr. Clarke, second speaker for the Opposition, said we could always reach New York by boat, and suggested that we concentrated upon the Moon, Mars and even Pluto, as our name Interplanetary implied.

The debate was then thrown open to the members, many of whom spoke for and against the motion. Notable speakers for the Opposition were Mrs. R. A. Smith and Mr. Gillings, both having almost unanswerable arguments. Other speakers dwelt upon religious and financial angles, radio control, social effects, etc. Closing speeches were then made by Mr. Carnell and Mr. Smith, the latter dwelling upon the difference between "idealists" and "realists". Professor Low did not sum up the various viewpoints, but put the motion to the vote, it being passed by 16 to 13.

It must be observed that this was purely a Branch debate, and not a resolution for future activities. An interesting report of the meeting appeared on the back page of the October 9 London *Evening News*, 6.30 Edition only.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Will be held on **Tuesday, November 2**, at "The Mason's Arms", Maddox Street, W1, at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. R. A. Smith will give an address entitled "Space will be crossed, when.....", presenting some of the difficulties in the way of space conquest. Two announcements of vital interest to the general membership will then be made.

Member D. H. M. Jack, of Marlborough, Wilts, won the Launching Equipment contest.

DEFINITION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee is a body called together to assist the Research Director in his duties. It has actually been in existence since Autumn 1936, but did not receive official status until after the passing of the new Constitution in February 1937. Consequently, although a considerable amount of work had been done by the time the Spring *Journal* was published, the fact that this *Journal* was already set up by February prevented the Technical Committee report being included. A report for the year will appear in the forthcoming *Journal*.

Membership of the Committee is selected from members who have appeared at General Meetings, and who have shown signs of some Technical knowledge and more particularly, sufficient enthusiasm to lead them to attend the Committee Meetings, which are held approximately fortnightly, and to do such work as is required at their own expense. Owing to the fact that there are no technical books available on the subject, a high standard of initial technical knowledge has not been called for, but rather the intelligence and enthusiasm necessary to lead to information being learned as soon as it is available. The membership has perforce been limited to the vicinity of London, as constant attendance at the meetings has been found an essential to coherent work.