

elusive. We cannot dig up the roots of our own being. The real *fons et origo* of our Society is hidden in the whole course of Astronomical science and in the scientific predilections of those who first organized the various clubs and societies which constituted the forbears of the present Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

The first society organized in Canada exclusively for the study of astronomical science was held in the Mechanics' Institute building at the corner of Adelaide and Church Streets. The building has since given place to the Toronto Public Library. As the minutes of the first meeting are concise, they may be quoted verbatim. They are as follows:

"Minutes of a meeting held Dec. 1st, 1868, in The Mechanics' Institute, to take into consideration the propriety of forming a society for the prosecution of astronomical science.

"Present:—Messrs. Mungo Turnbull, Andrew Elvins, Daniel K. Winder, James Hughes, Samuel Clare, Robert Ridgeway, Charles Potter, G. Brunt.

"On motion, Mr. Ridgeway was appointed Chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Clare, Secretary.

"Moved by Mr. Elvins, seconded by Mr. Turnbull, that a society be formed under the name of The Toronto Astronomical Club, having for its object the aiding of each other in the pursuit of astronomical knowledge: in order to which it is proposed:—

1. To meet monthly at such time and place as may be agreed upon.
2. To spend the evening somewhat as follows:
 - a. Reading extracts, from papers or publications, of anything new or otherwise interesting, bearing on the subject, of Astronomy.
 - b. Reading original papers connected with any department of Astronomy.
 - c. Examining anything new in astronomical science.
 - d. Observing celestial objects if circumstances should favour our doing so.
 - e. Conversation, etc. Unanimously adopted.

"Moved by Mr. Turnbull, seconded by Mr. Potter, that Mr. Daniel K. Winder be President for the ensuing year. Carried.

"Moved by Mr. Elvins, seconded by Mr. Hughes, that Mr. Samuel Clare be Secretary-Treasurer for the ensuing year. Carried.

"Moved by Mr. Winder, seconded by Mr. Hughes, that Mr. Ridgeway, the Chairman, with Messrs. Elvins, Clare, and Turnbull, be a Committee to draft a set of by-laws for the government of the club. Carried.

"Moved by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Hughes, that the meetings be held on the first Tuesday evening of every month. Carried.