(2) achat et entretien du matériel nécessaire au B.I.H.,
(3) indemnité allouée personnellement au Secrétaire Général en sa qualité de Directeur du B.I.H.,
(4) subventions ou rémunérations dues, soit pour des travaux de calculs et d'observations, soit pour les expériences ordonnées par le C.I.H.

14. Le Directeur est responsable de l'emploi des fonds.

15. Le Directeur doit préparer chaque année un Rapport Annuel sur les travaux accomplis par le Bureau pendant l'année précédente, et le soumettre au Président.

Le Rapport Annuel est publié et communiqué à titre d'information aux membres de la Commission.

16. Le Directeur doit préparer chaque année un projet de dépenses pour l'année suivante, et le soumettre au Président. Après que ce projet a reçu l'approbation du Président, il doit être communiqué à titre d'information aux membres de la Commission.

Ce Budget doit indiquer le montant des sommes à affecter à chacun des objets visés ci-dessus No. 13.

17. Le Président doit examiner de temps en temps les détails des dépenses et rendre compte de la situation des fonds à la Commission à l'occasion de sa réunion régulière. La Commission doit faire figurer ce compte rendu, avec ou sans remarques, dans son rapport à l'Union Astronomique Internationale.

18. Le Président doit vérifier que le règlement a été observé.

Le Secrétaire Général de l'U.A.I. doit payer au Président les sommes allouées à la Commission qui les transmet au Directeur pour les besoins du Bureau qui sont conformes au règlement.

Fourth Meeting, July 14th

At an adjourned meeting M. Bigourdan explained in detail the new system of signals which he had devised. No decision was taken on its merits, but it was decided that the proposal should be published in the *Bulletin Horaire*.

Commission 33. (STATISTIQUE STELLAIRE.)

Professor Dr C. V. L. Charlier presided and presented the Report. Dr K. G. Malmquist was elected Secretary.

Proposals I and II were discussed and the following recommendation was adopted:

"That the following tables be executed, provided the financial situation of the Union will admit the expense of calculation and printing or that the cost be borne by a gift from some foundation.

"1. Tables for conversion of equatorial into galactic coordinates. The tables should give, with an accuracy of a hundredth of a degree, the values of the galactic longitude and latitude corresponding to every whole degree in right ascension and declination. Regarding the position to be adopted for the galactic plane some difficulty is caused by the fact that the values of the coordinates of the galactic pole, as determined from different celestial objects, vary to some extent. It will be most suitable to use a fixed pole for the computations and to add

conversion tables making possible a change from one adopted pole to another. The adopted position of the galactic pole will be decided later by Commission 33.

"2. Tables for conversion of equatorial into galactic proper motions. For this purpose it will be sufficient to give a table of the angle ϕ between the declination circle and the galactic latitude circle of a star. The values of ϕ should be given for every whole degree of α and δ and expressed in hundredths of a degree.

"The tables should be calculated and published through Commission 33 before the next meeting."

The need of a catalogue of all known radial velocities with the systematic corrections taken into consideration was discussed and generally recognized. However, it was pointed out by Professor De Sitter that this question falls within the province of Commission 30. The President of this Commission, Professor Plaskett, explained that the question had been discussed there, but he considered that the time was not yet ripe for such a catalogue and that it would be better to postpone it for a year or two.

It was agreed to postpone the question of a catalogue of the absolute magnitudes for some years.

Proposals 5 and 6 were then discussed. Dr Luyten communicated the resolution of Commission 24 concerning the definition of the absolute magnitude. Professor Russell was against the proposed change of the units of length and absolute magnitudes, for practical reasons, since the units adopted by the Rome meeting are rather generally used. The adoption of new units would involve the radical modification of a very large amount of existing literature. He admitted the desirability of having a unified and logical system, but was convinced that, if this is to be done, the only satisfactory system is that of the physicists, the centimetre, gram, second system. He was seconded by Professor Eddington and Dr Lundmark. Dr Malmquist seconded the proposals of the President and pointed out the lack of consistency in the existing definition of the absolute magnitude, viz. that the absolute magnitude is defined as the apparent magnitude at a distance of *ten* parsecs. Professor Eddington remarked that similar definitions exist in other branches of natural science. The litre, for instance, is defined as equal to one cubic *decimetre*. The proposals were rejected. The President remarked that it was known to him, through correspondence with the members, that the majority of the Commission was against the propositions, but he considered it important, for the definite solution of the problem, that the reasons for and against should be officially announced.

The following communication was received from Mr V. Nechvile, National Observatory of Prague:

"I should be glad to mention that I measured the proper motion of 3802 stars as faint as magnitude 16 from different photographic plates made 30–35 years ago by the Henry Brothers at the Paris National Observatory. There are 400 stars the proper motion of which exceeds 0″·08 per annum.

"Equatorial positions of these stars, frequency curves of proper motion and the provisional results of analysis are published in the *Publications de l'Observatoire National de Prague*, No. 6."

Mr Nechvile has made an attempt to take into account the low limit of proper motion of stars and has published a generalized formula for frequency curves of proper motion in the *Comptes Rendus*, Paris, **186**, 848, 1928.