

IN the issue of NATURE of October 17, p. 574, Fig. 4 of Major Burnett's letter on "Bordered Squares of Fifth Order and their Magic Derivatives" was erroneously not magic in one of its diagonals. The square should be

	24	14	18	1	8
	(17)	(6)	(15)	20	7
	(16)	(10)	(12)	23	4
	(5)	(22)	(11)	2	25
	3	13	9	19	21

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned: An experimental officer in the Acoustical Experimental Section of the War Office—The Secretary, Royal Engineer Board, 16 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1 (November 8). A travelling lecturer in electrical

engineering under the Glamorgan Education Committee—The Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Cardiff (November 10). A lecturer in the department of mathematics and mechanics of the Technical College, Sunderland—Chief Education Officer, 15 John Street, Sunderland (November 17). A lecturer in the department of education of King's College, London—The Secretary, King's College, Strand, W.C.2 (November 18). A senior and a junior investigator in the department of metallurgy of the University of Sheffield for work on the electrodeposition of metals—The Registrar, University, Sheffield. A lecturer and demonstrator in the mechanical engineering department of the Borough Polytechnic Institute—The Principal, Borough Road, S.E.1. A commercial assistant to the director of the Electrical Research Association—The Director, B.E. & A.I. Research Association, 19 Tothill Street, S.W.1.

Our Astronomical Column.

COMET 1925a (SCHAIN, COMAS SOLA).—Prof. J. Comas Sola, of Barcelona, one of the discoverers of this remarkable comet, has now succeeded in detecting it in the morning sky on its emergence from the sun's rays, which have concealed it for several months.

The position is as follows:

	U.T.	R.A. 1925 ^o .	S. Decl.	Mag.
Oct. 18 ^d	4 ^h 38 ^m 25 ^s ?	10 ^h 22 ^m 10 ^s .6	5° 48' 22"	12.5

The correction to his ephemeris is $-20s.$, $-4'.6$, which is satisfactorily small. This has been applied to the following ephemeris (for 0^h).

	R.A.	S. Decl.	log r.	log Δ.
Nov. 9.	10 ^h 17 ^m 33 ^s	8° 17'	0.6288	0.6560
17.	10 13 59	9 13	0.6299	0.6428
25.	10 9 4	10 10	0.6312	0.6286

The comet, which has the largest perihelion distance known, is now slowly receding from the sun, but approaching the earth fairly rapidly. There is reason to hope that it will be followed for another year, perhaps longer, which should permit accurate determination of the departure of the orbit from a parabola.

LARGE DETONATING FIREBALL.—Mr. W. F. Denning writes: "On October 22 at 10 h. 44 m. P.M. a brilliant fireball was observed at many places in Ireland. As observed from Co. Waterford, its path was from west to east from a few degrees below Polaris towards a point a few degrees below Castor and Pollux. The nucleus at first displayed an intense electric-blue colour and then burst into a strong, red, egg-shaped mass. As seen from Antrim, the meteor with its glare lit up the whole country and apparently had a disc as big as the full moon. Six and a quarter minutes after the object had disappeared, the observers distinctly heard two heavy thuds like the distant report of heavy artillery, followed by a prolonged rumble akin to thunder. The duration of flight was about five seconds, but the observer at Waterford did not listen for any sound, while at Antrim it was specially awaited so that the time interval given (6¼ minutes) may be depended upon as being correct. This estimate corresponds to a distance of about 75 miles. It is hoped that further observations will come to hand so that the real path of this fine object may be computed."

WOLF'S NOVA IN AQUILA.—Dr. W. H. Steavenson gave an account of this remarkable object at the

October meeting of the British Astronomical Association. A slide was shown from a plate of the region taken at Königstuhl about a year ago. This showed stars as faint as mag. 16.5, but there was no trace of the supposed Nova, which is not found on any plates taken there until September 1925. It is possible, however, that study of the Harvard plates may reveal more about the circumstances of its rise. It has been well observed in England by the B.A.A. Variable Star Section. Since discovery, its magnitude has fluctuated between 8.6 and 9. There seemed to be a tendency to decline, but this was followed by a slight recovery.

The spectrum has been studied with an objective prism at Babelsberg Observatory, Berlin. It was continuous, apparently without visible lines, bright or dark; from the distribution of intensity of light, its spectral type was concluded to be approximately G. The star is outside the main stream of the Milky Way, but in one of its faint extensions.

THE TURKISH CALENDAR.—The Turkish Calendar has hitherto been a very singular one. It simply consists of 12 lunations, or 354½ days. There is no intercalary month, such as was inserted (seven times in nineteen years) by most of the ancient nations which used lunar months; consequently the beginning of the year travels right round the solar year in about thirty-three years.

The following data are quoted from the Nautical Almanac:

Year.	Turkish Year begins.	Ramadan begins.
1922	Aug. 24	Apr. 28
1923	" 14	" 17
1924	" 2	" 6
1925	July 22	Mar. 26

These are not the dates of new moon, but about two days later, since they await the visible crescent.

The *Times* of October 26 contains the welcome announcement that a bill for the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar will shortly be laid before the Grand National Assembly. Its adoption would render the use of the Gregorian Calendar general through Europe. It will be remembered that Greece recently adopted a calendar practically identical with it, though it was decided to use the true moon instead of the ecclesiastical moon in computing Easter.