

region, it is impossible to see such as these now found with an aperture much less than that of the Lick telescope. A list is therefore given of the principal communications to astronomical periodicals relating to the alleged discovery of faint stars in the trapezium of Orion.

BARNARD'S COMET, 1888-89.—*Comptes rendus*, No. 17, October 21, 1889, contains some observations made by MM. Rayet and Courty of the motion of Barnard's comet, the positions of the comparison stars being also given. The series of observations extend from September 11, 1888, to September 27, 1889.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON J. C. HOUZEAU.—M. A. Lancaster, the collaborator with Houzeau of the most comprehensive bibliography extant, has proved himself, in this note, to be the most capable of writing his deceased friend's biography. Houzeau's scientific and literary labours cover an extensive field: astronomy and geodesy, mathematics and meteorology, geology and geography, are all represented in his works; and when but a young man, he directed the triangulation of his country. In politics Houzeau was an enthusiast, and whilst in America, about 1861-69, he gave a considerable amount of attention to the subject of the emancipation of the slaves, and wrote numerous and important articles upon it. In 1875, Houzeau completed a series of astronomical and meteorological observations made at Jamaica, and in the following year was appointed Director of the Brussels Observatory. His crowning work—the "Vade Mecum of Astronomy," was finished in 1882. It represented the work of a lifetime, and as a guide to astronomers is invaluable. Such a compilation, however, calls for continual additions, and a general bibliography was published in 1887, with the assistance of M. A. Lancaster. This was Houzeau's last work, but before his death, on July 12, 1888, he earnestly expressed the wish that it should be carried on by his collaborator. Houzeau's life was full of vicissitudes, and his biography is most interesting.

THE KARLSRUHE OBSERVATORY.—The third volume of the Publications of the Grand-Ducal Observatory of Karlsruhe has recently been published by Dr. W. Valentiner, the Director. The bulk of the volume is by Dr. E. von Rebeur-Paschwitz, and consists, first, of a series of measures with the 6-inch refractor of the two star-clusters M. 35 and M. 25; secondly, of a discussion of the orbit of Comet Wells, 1882 I., and the derivation of definitive elements; and lastly, of auxiliary tables for the computation of parallax for 169 different observatories.

Dr. Boy Matheissen adds a short paper on the orbit of Comet Denning, 1881 V.

The volume contains three plates, the first two being maps of the star-clusters under observation, whilst the third gives photographs of the same two clusters as taken by Dr. E. von Gothard at Herény.

OBJECTS FOR THE SPECTROSCOPE.

Sidereal Time at Greenwich, at 10 p.m. November 7 = 1h. 9m. 9s.

Name.	Mag.	Colour.	R.A. 1890°.	Decl. 1890°.
(1) Nebula in Andromeda.	—	Greenish-white.	h. m. s.	° ' "
(2) γ Cassiopeie	2	Bluish-white.	0 35 4	+40 30' 74
(3) 47 Piscium	5	Yellowish-white.	0 59 1	+60 7
(4) ε Ceti	3	White.	0 42 58	+ 6 59' 2
(5) γ Pegasi	3	White.	0 13 48	- 9 26
(6) D.M. + 34° 55'	8	Deep red.	0 7 34	+14 34
(7) T Herculis	Var.	Reddish.	0 21 42	+34 53
			18 4 56	+31 0

Remarks.

(1) Dr. Huggins notes that the spectrum ends abruptly in the orange. Maxima of brightness have since been recorded by myself at, approximately, 468-474, 517, and 546, and the latter two have also been confirmed by Mr. Taylor. Further confirmation is required. For comparison, a Bunsen or spirit-lamp flame will be found convenient for the first two, and the brightest fluting seen when lead chloride is introduced into the flame for the third. Mr. Lockyer suggests that since the central concentration is probably at a higher temperature than the surrounding portions of the nebula, different parts of the nebula should show differences in their spectra. Observing with Mr. Lockyer's 30-inch reflector at Westgate-on-Sea, on October 20, I suspected

some change in the spectrum away from the nucleus, but was unable to complete the observation on account of clouds, and have not since had an opportunity of repeating it.

(2) The bright lines most constantly seen in the spectrum of this star are C, F, and D₃, but their appearance is somewhat irregular. Continuous observations, with special reference to the relative intensities of the lines, are suggested. The lines are well seen in a 10-inch equatorial with a Maclean spectroscopic eye-piece. Bright flutings of carbon have also been suspected, and comparisons should be made with the Bunsen or spirit-lamp to confirm these. The continuous spectrum should also be carefully examined for maxima. b, D, and other absorption-lines, have also been recorded.

(3) This is a star which gives a spectrum of dark flutings fading away towards the red. Dunér records bands 2 to 9, and describes the spectrum as superb. Band 3, near D, is of extraordinary width. The spectra of this type have been explained as mixed metallic fluting absorption and carbon fluting radiation. The carbon flutings probably present are 517 and 468-474, which again may be determined by comparison with the spirit-lamp, 517 being the brightest green fluting.

Dunér's notation and mean wave-lengths of the dark bands are as follows:—(1) 648-666, (2) 616.2-629.8, (3) 586.7-596.8, (4) 559.8-564.9, (5) 545.2-551.5, (6) 524.3-528.1, (7) 516.8-522.2; (8) 495.9-503.0, (9) 476.0-483.0, (10) 460.7-473. The bright spaces between 7 and 8, and 9 and 10 are probably due to carbon.

(4) This is a star of Class II.a, which is now divided into two groups, one having spectra of the type of α Tauri (Group III.), and the other of the sun (Group V.). The lines should be carefully observed, and differences from the solar spectrum, if any, noted, so that the star can be classed in one group or the other. The principal criteria so far determined for Group III. are strong lines at 499 and 540. 568 and 579. The line at 540 forms with E (5268), and the iron line at 5327 (both solar lines), an equi-distant trio. The difference between the two groups may perhaps best be observed by a comparison of Aldebaran and Capella.

(5) The spectrum of this star is Class I.a (Group IV.). The relative intensities of the hydrogen and metallic lines should be noted, in order that the star may be arranged with others in order of temperature.

(6) Dunér gives the spectrum of this star as Class III.b (Group VI.), in which the main features are three dark carbon flutings fading away towards the blue. Other absorptions, if any, should be carefully observed, and their relative intensities recorded.

(7) This is a variable star, which reached its maximum on November 6. The magnitude at maximum is given by Gore as 6.9-8.3, and the period as 165.1 days. The spectrum has not yet, so far as I know, been recorded. A. FOWLER.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE telegrams in the papers of Monday and Tuesday from Mr. Stanley are of the most suggestive and interesting character. For one thing, Emin, Casati, and others who have been holding out, are safe, though the brave Pasha has evidently been deserted by most of his men. That Mr. Stanley's expedition was needed the result has proved. He reached the Albert Nyanza for the third time, not a moment too soon to rescue the retreating party. We need not dwell on the sacrifices that have been entailed; they might to some extent have been avoided, but personally Mr. Stanley is not to blame. The geographical results of the expedition, as shadowed in the too brief telegram in Tuesday's papers, are evidently of the highest interest. There is now no doubt that there is a southern Albert Lake, Muta Nzige, which Mr. Stanley has named Lake Albert Edward. From the time when he himself discovered what he called Beatrice Gulf until the present, no one had seen this lake. At first it was thought to be a part of the northern lake, Albert Nyanza, but that idea had to be given up. Now it is clear that it is connected with that lake by the River Sempliki. The southern lake is 900 feet higher than the northern, and so is about 3200 feet above sea-level, and 450 feet above Lake Tanganyika, with which it is unlikely to have any connection. Mr. Stanley skirted the snowy mountain range referred to in his letters of six months ago, and found that they send down fifty streams to feed the

¹ Roy. Soc. Proc., vol. xlv. pp. 380-392.

Sempliki. Awamba, Usongora, Toro, Ahaiyama, Unyampaka, and Anhori, are all districts around the west, north, and east shores of the Lake Albert Edward, three sides of which Mr. Stanley says he has traversed—probably the east, west, and north sides, though it is possible he may have gone round the south side. It is probable that the lake as laid down on our maps is much too large, and that it is comparatively small. Mr. Stanley found it to be 15 miles wide at Beatrice Gulf. From the lake he struck south-east to Karagwe and Uzinze, on the south-west and south of Victoria Nyanza, and no doubt found at Mslala the stores which have been accumulating for many months. Thus it will be seen Mr. Stanley has solved one of the few remaining problems of African geography. He has found the south-west source of the Nile, and established the true relations which exist among the great lakes of Central Africa. He has filled up an important blank in our maps, and collected observations which will enable us to understand the physical geography of one of the most interesting regions on the continent. Probably he will be able to tell us what has become of the Alexandra Lake of his former expedition. It may be as well to state that the telegram of Monday was in effect the first part of that of Tuesday, and therefore Emin's safety was not again referred to in the latter.

THE Zanzibar Correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on November 5 that authentic news had reached Lamu that Dr. Peters and the whole of his party had been massacred, except one European and one Somali, wounded, who are at Ngao. Some say they were killed by Masais, and some by Somalis.

FROM the Journal of the Anthropological Society in Vienna, we take the following conclusions of Dr. B. Hagen, respecting the Malay peoples:—Their great predilection for the sea, which makes them pray to Allah that they may die on sea, seems to render the Malay race adapted for the Polynesian and Further Indian Archipelago. The centre from which they migrated is to be sought in the highlands of West Sumatra, particularly in the old kingdom of Menang-Kabau. Thence the peoples extended slowly eastwards; at first probably the races now to be found only in the interior of the great islands (the Battas in Sumatra, the Sundanese in Java, the Dayaks in Borneo, the Alfurus in Celebes, &c.). These "aborigines" of the islands crushed out a population already in possession, as remains of which the Negritos may be taken. The Malays in the narrower sense occupying Sumatra, Malacca, and North Borneo, are to be regarded as the last emigration from the centre referred to, occurring from the twelfth to the fifteenth century A.D. With the Indians and Chinese, who have been long in intercourse with the archipelago, arose mixtures and crosses, in less measure also with the Arabs. One must not therefore expect the pure racial type, especially in the coast population. The crania of the anthropological collections are too imperfectly determined in respect of their *locale* to be of any service for a judgment of the Malay peoples. Of more value are the measurements of the living begun by Dr. Weisbach and executed by Dr. Hagen in 400 cases. The latter's conclusions are:—(1) The peoples in the interior of Sumatra—the Battas, the Allas, and the Malays of Menang-Kabau—compose a closely allied group always in direct contrast with the hither-Indian peoples, and yet showing just as little community with the Chinese. We must therefore take them for the pure original type, characterizable as follows:—Small, compact, vigorous figure of less than 1600 mm. average size; long arms; very short legs; very long and broad mesocephalous skull of very great compass, with high forehead; a prognathous face 10 per cent. broader than long, with large mouth, and uncommonly short, flat, and broad nose with large round nostrils opening mostly frontwise, and with broad nasal root. (2) The Malays of the east coast of Sumatra and those of the coasts of Malacca indicate a much greater affinity to the Indians than to their tribal peoples of Menang-Kabau. They are plainly therefore thoroughly mixed with Indian blood. (3) The Javanese peoples stand much nearer to the original type of the Sumatrans than to the Malays just mentioned. They show therefore less mixture with Indian, but on the other hand more mixture with Chinese, blood, and the Javanese more so than the Sundanese.

THE second number of this year's "Information respecting Kaiser Wilhelm'sland and the Bismarck Archipelago," issued by the German New Guinea Company, contains a description of the north coast of New Guinea, from Cape

Cretin to the Legoarant Islands, by the former Governor, Vice-Admiral Freiherr von Schleinitz, with a map designed by him. According to this account, Kaiser Wilhelm'sland is subject to the south-east trade wind. This is, however, occasionally relieved by the opposite wind, when, viz., the sun in southing imparts to the Australian continent a temperature higher than that of New Guinea. The temperature, averaging 26° to 27° C., is not so high as might be inferred from the equatorial situation of the land, a fact due in part to the prevalence of the trade wind, which also brings with it a cooling sea-current to the coast, and in part to the considerable elevation of most of the island. The north-west, blowing especially from January to April, comes on the whole with greater force than the south-east. Calms often occur from March to May and from October to December. Precipitation is on the whole copious, but there are many differences according to the local variations in the configuration of the land. The navigation of the coast offers no particular dangers and difficulties, either for steamers or sailing-vessels. Serious storms are extremely rare, nor are there any reefs in the channel proper. Sea currents do not strike direct on the coast, and they are not generally very strong. The tides are inconsiderable, the spring floods keeping under 1 metre.

SOME interesting remains have been found in Hamburg on the site of the new Rathhaus. At a depth of 0 to 0·7 metre the ground was covered to a height of 10 to 15 centimetres with dams of thin willow twigs (*Salix fragilis*), in many places two, sometimes even three, layers above one another, and separated from one another by equally thick earth layers. The building rests on clay, i.e. submerged ground, which contained heaps of freshwater shells, e.g. *Valvata piscinalis*, *Bythia tentaculata*, &c., as also *Cardium edule*, *Tellina baltica*, *Macra solida*, &c. When therefore the dam was made, the water must have been strongly brackish. The interest in this discovery was heightened when there was found, under St. Anne's Bridge, at a depth of 0·5 metre, a regularly paved street of small boulders, such as were still used for stone pavement in all North German towns in the last century. The stone dam was about 5 metres broad, and encased on both sides by thick wooden planks, in order, in the swampy ground, to prevent the slipping out of the stones sideways. The ascertained changes in the level of the North Sea give no positive clue to the age of the Hamburg finds.

THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.

ON Monday evening the first annual dinner of the Institution of Electrical Engineers took place at the Criterion Restaurant, Sir William Thomson, the President, occupying the chair. Many different branches of science were represented on the occasion, and some of the after-dinner speeches rose to a high level of excellence.

Due honour having been done to the usual loyal toasts, and Major Webber and Captain Wharton having responded for the Army and Navy, the Chairman proposed "Her Majesty's Ministers." Lord Salisbury said, in response:—

Sir William Thomson and Gentlemen,—I have to thank you on behalf of my colleagues in the Government and myself for the exceedingly kind reception you have given to the kind words in which Sir William Thomson has proposed this toast. I do not feel that I can accept the guise in which he put my name forward. On the contrary, though recognizing, as every individual must do, and as I have especial reason to do, the enormous benefits which electrical science confers upon mankind, I feel that I have reason rather to apologize for my appearance in this assembly. When I look round on so many learned and distinguished men, I feel rather in the position of a profane person who has got inside the Eleusinian mysteries. But I have an excuse. The gallant gentlemen who replied for the Army and Navy were able to show many particulars in which their special professional vocation was sustained and pushed forward by the discoveries of electrical science. But I will venture to say that there is no department under the Government so profoundly indebted to the discoveries of those who have made this science as the Foreign Office, with which I have the honour to be connected. I may say that we positively exist by virtue of the electric telegraph. The whole