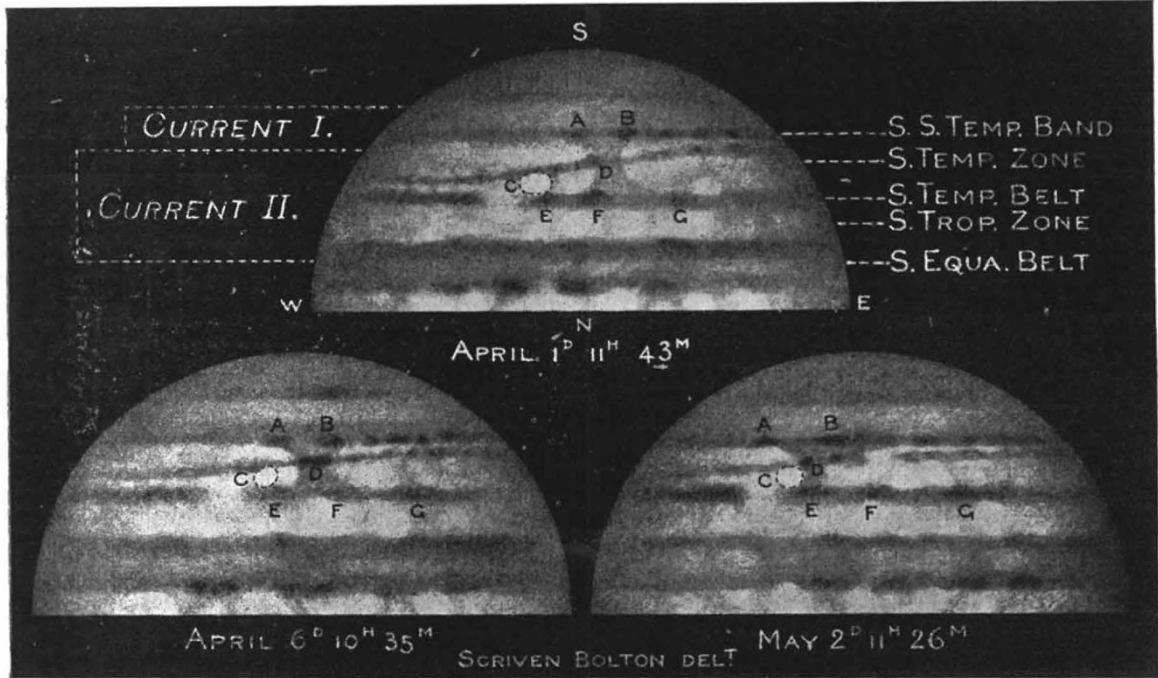


quick current often trespasses upon a slower moving one, a fact which is manifested by wispy shadings and spots protruding considerably into an adjacent current. Such an intrusion of matter might have occurred in the region of the S.S. temperate belt, and by continuing its northerly course slowly but interruptedly, its rapid westerly drift combined would cause it to drift in a W.N.W. direction. The result would be for the matter to form a slanting streak across the disc, and it is possible, and not improbable, that the oblique belt under discussion has found its origin through a similar cause.

#### Tests for Colour-vision.

AN article in NATURE for August 18 deals aptly with the question of testing for colour-vision. It is to be hoped that the committee at present inquiring into the matter will advocate that testing should be carried out in future in conditions resembling as nearly as possible those on which seamen ordinarily follow their calling. It does not seem quite practical or fair to test indoors a man's ability to pick up lights in the open. The conditions of light inside and outside vary so much, as do those of inside and out-



An Oblique Belt in Jupiter, 1910.

The movements of the seven spots lettered in the drawings are tabulated as under:—

| Name of spot | First and last date of observation | Average monthly drift (3 days) <sup>1</sup> | Rotation period |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| A            | 1910, Feb. 9                       | +28.5                                       | h. m. s.        |
| B            | 1910, May 7                        | +31.0                                       | 9 55 2.8        |
| D            | 1910, April 1                      | +28.5                                       | 9 54 59.5       |
| C            | 1910, May 7                        | +28.5                                       | 9 55 2.8        |
| E            | 1910, Jan. 16                      | +17.0                                       | 9 55 18.1       |
| F            | 1910, April 23                     | +17.0                                       | 9 55 18.1       |
| G            | 1910, March 5                      | +15.8                                       | 9 55 19.7       |
|              | 1910, April 23                     | +14.3                                       | 9 55 21.7       |
|              | 1909, Dec. 13                      | +17.5                                       | 9 55 17.4       |
|              | 1910, April 1                      |   |                 |

The oblique belt was situated on the opposite side of the planet to the red spot, and the longitudes of the condensation D might be given here:—

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1910<br>April 1 = 169.2 | 1910<br>April 23 = 146.9 |
| " 6 = 161.6             | May 2 = 140.2            |
| " 8 = 156.1             | " 7 = 133.4              |

Leeds, September 3.

SCRIVEN BOLTON.

<sup>1</sup> Relatively to the adopted zero meridian of System II., based on a rotation period of 9h. 55m. 40.6s. (*Nautical Almanac*).

side darkness. A sailor's business is not to match colours, but to pick up and distinguish instantly lights that may be seen, far or near, through varying conditions of atmosphere.

The sight of the average seaman, from practice, is probably much keener than that of the average landsman. The sailor's eyes are trained to adapt themselves to varying conditions of outside darkness.

The suggestion of spectrum tests is good, provided that such testing is made supplementary only to the practical open-air tests with flags by day and sidelights by night. The object of the tests is to ascertain the candidate's faculty for instant recognition of a flag or light, and there is no difficulty whatever in providing efficient practical tests. It is unnecessary, and even mischievous, to try to puzzle a candidate with combinations of lights and shades such as never occur in the course of his practical work.

It is to be hoped that the committee which is investigating the matter will allow common sense and practical ability to rule its recommendations for future examinations.

D. WILSON-BARKER.

The Thames Nautical Training College, H.M.S.  
Worcester, Greenhithe, September 19.

#### Fireball of September 2.

THE remark in NATURE of September 8 (p. 318), as to the necessity of further observations for determining the height and velocity of meteors encourages me to send the following note:—

At 9.5 p.m. on September 2, from Earlstone Common, four miles south of Newbury, I had a good view of the meteor described by the Rev. J. C. W. Herschel as seen