

7 Ceti. Bright meteors were also recorded at Bristol, and their paths noted as follows:—

	h.	m.	mag.	°	°	to	°	°	
Sept. 30	7	43	= 4	325	+ 10	to	325½	+ 4	slow
30	7	46	1	348½	+ 30		29	+ 37	,,
Oct. 1	10	30	1	70	+ 37		72	+ 32	swift
6	10	45	1	26	- 9		33	- 19	slow
6	10	48	1	22	+ 42		22½	+ 49	,,
8	8	4	= 2	270	+ 73½		285	+ 78½	,,

Duplicate observations of any of these objects would be valuable in order to determine their real paths in the air.

OBSERVATIONS OF LONG-PERIOD VARIABLES.—The results of extensive observations of four long-period variables which have been made at Johannesburg are summarised by Mr. W. M. Worsell in Circular No. 42 of the Union Observatory. Formulæ for maxima and minima have been derived by including other available data, chiefly from observations at the Harvard College and Cape observatories. The names of the stars and formulæ for dates of maximum are as follows:—

R Horologii 025050.

J.D. 2415220 + 400.4 E days; $M - m = 174$ days.

RS Centauri 1111661

J.D. 2415024 + 164.2 E days + 14.5 sin (30 + 15 E)° days.

SV Scorpil 174135

J.D. 2415259 + 258.4 E days; $M - m = 148$ days.

RU Capricorni 202622

J.D. 2415275 + 346.4 E days.

The numbers following the names of the stars give a rough indication of position; the hours and minutes of right ascension are indicated by the first two pairs of figures and the degrees of declination by the last pair.

CORRECTION OF APPARENT STELLAR MAGNITUDES.—In the Journal of the British Astronomical Association (vol. xxviii., p. 252) Mr. Felix de Roy directs attention to the importance of correcting estimates of stellar magnitude for atmospheric absorption. Tables are available which indicate the mean loss of light for an average star as a function of its zenith distance for a place of observation near sea-level. The mean absorption is under 0.05 mag. up to Z.D. 38°, reaches 0.1 at 47°, 0.2 at 58°, 0.3 at 64°, 0.4 at 69°, 0.5 at 72°, and then increases very quickly, reaching a whole magnitude at 80°, two magnitudes at 86°, and three magnitudes at 88°. With the aid of such a table, or a graph, it is easy to compute the apparent magnitude at a given time from the true (zenithal) magnitude as given in a catalogue. It is pointed out that the neglect of this correction may partly account for the discrepancies between individual estimates of the brightness of Nova Aquilæ during its brightest stages, as comparisons were necessarily made with stars at very different altitudes.

INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATIONS.

THE following is a complete list of the delegates who attended the Inter-Allied Conference on International Scientific Organisations which was held at the Royal Society on October 9-11:—*British Delegates:* Sir Joseph Thomson, O.M., Sir Alfred Kempe, Prof. A. Schuster, Mr. W. B. Hardy, Prof. W. A. Herdman, Sir Frank Dyson, Mr. J. H. Jeans, Col. H. G. Lyons, Prof. C. S. Sherrington, Sir William Tilden, Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, and Prof. J. A. McClelland.

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Foreign Delegates.—*Belgium:* M. Lecoq, Prof. Massart, and M. de la Vallée Poussin. *France:* M. B. Baillaud, M. G. Bigourdan, M. A. Haller, M. Lacroix, M. C. Lallemand, M. Moureu, and M. E. Picard. *Italy:* Prof. V. Volterra. *Japan:* Prof. Joji Sakurai and M. A. Tanakadate. *Serbia:* Prof. Bogdan Popovitch. *United States of America:* Dr. H. A. Bumstead, Col. J. J. Carty, Dr. W. F. Durand, Dr. S. Flexner, Prof. G. Hale, and Dr. A. A. Noyes. *Brazil:* M. Carlos de Carvalho.

The subjoined statement was adopted unanimously by the Inter-Allied Conference. It is intended to serve as a preamble to a number of resolutions dealing with the withdrawal of the Allied nations from existing international associations and the formation of new ones to take their place. The confirmation of the academies represented at the conference is required before the text of the resolutions can be made public:—

When more than four years ago the outbreak of war divided Europe into hostile camps, men of science were still able to hope that the conclusion of peace would join at once the broken threads, and that the present enemies might then once more be able to meet in friendly conference, uniting their efforts to advance the interests of science. For ever since the revival of learning in the Middle Ages the prosecution of knowledge has formed a bond strong enough to resist the strain of national antagonism. And this bond was strengthened during the latter part of last century, when branches of science developed requiring for their study the co-operation of all the civilised nations of the world. International associations and conferences rapidly multiplied, and the friendly intercourse between the learned representatives of different countries grew more intimate, in spite of their political differences, which were admitted but not insisted upon.

In former times war frequently interrupted the co-operation of individuals without destroying the mutual esteem based on the recognition of intellectual achievements; peace then soon effaced the scars of a strife that was ended. If to-day the representatives of the scientific academies of the Allied nations are forced to declare that they will not be able to resume personal relations in scientific matters with their enemies until the Central Powers can be re-admitted into the concert of civilised nations, they do so with a full sense of responsibility, and they feel bound to record the reasons which have led them to this decision.

Civilisation has imposed restrictions on the conduct of nations which are intended to serve the interests of humanity and to maintain a high standard of honour. Such are the recognition of the sanctity of treaties—especially those designed to apply to a state of war—and the avoidance of unnecessary cruelties inflicted on civilians. In both these respects the Central Powers have broken the ordinances of civilisation, disregarding all conventions, and unbridling the worst passions which the ferocity of war engenders. War is necessarily full of cruelties; individual acts of barbarity cannot be avoided, and have to be borne. It is not of these we speak, but of the organised horrors encouraged and initiated from above with the sole object of terrorising unoffending communities. The wanton destruction of property, the murders and outrages on land and sea, the sinking of hospital ships, the insults and tortures inflicted on prisoners of war, have left a stain on the history of the guilty nations which cannot be removed by mere compensation of the material damage inflicted. In order to restore the confidence without which no scientific intercourse can be fruitful, the Central Powers must renounce the political methods which have led to the atrocities that have shocked the civilised world.