

(?) hawk, together with several small rodents. Mr. Atkinson noted that birds rose and flew across the road at his approach but were able easily to avoid the bicycle. Apparently they are not so successful in avoiding motor-cars. Mr. Atkinson suggests that head-lights at night, or the polished, tarred road-surface itself during the day time, may have proved the attraction bringing the animals to the road, where they readily fall victims to fast traffic.

THE course of lectures delivered by Mr. W. A. F. Balfour-Browne to a juvenile audience at the Royal Institution last Christmas is to be published by the Cambridge University Press under the title of "Concerning the Habits of Insects." The same house will also issue Sir J. J. Thomson's Fison Memorial Lecture on "The Structure of Light." It is expected to be ready in July.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A lecturer in the department of civil engineering, architecture, and building in the Bradford Technical College—The Principal (July 8). An assistant pathologist to the Jessop Hospital for Women and the Children's Hospital, Sheffield, and demonstrator of pathology in Sheffield University—The Registrar of the University (July 11). A senior research assistant at the Building Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research—The Secretary, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (July 20). Two probationer naturalists (one with special qualifications in mathematics and a knowledge of biometry and statistics, and one with

natural history qualifications, preferably with subsidiary physiology) under the Fishery Board for Scotland—The Fishery Board for Scotland, Edinburgh (July 31). Temporary assistant chemists in the Government Laboratory—The Government Chemist, Clement's Inn Passage, W.C.2 (July 31). The professorship of anatomy in University College, Dundee—The Secretary and Registrar, University, St. Andrews (August 1). The William Prescott chair of the care of animals—causation and prevention of disease—in the University of Liverpool—The Registrar (September 15). A lecturer on tropical hygiene at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine—The Secretary, 23 Endsleigh Gardens, N.W.1. Head of the commerce department of the Portsmouth Municipal College—The Secretary, Offices for Higher Education, Municipal College, Portsmouth. A physical laboratory steward at the Woolwich Polytechnic—The Principal. A woman teacher of physiology at the Chelsea Polytechnic—The Secretary, Chelsea Polytechnic, S.W.3. A technical assistant at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants, for work in connexion with photography, with special application to aerial photography—The Superintendent (quoting A. 76). A junior technical assistant at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants, for experimental work in aerodynamics—The Superintendent (quoting A. 75). A junior technical assistant at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants, for general physical work in connexion with instruments—The Superintendent (quoting A. 66).

Our Astronomical Column.

NOVA PICTORIS.—A letter from Mr. H. E. Wood, of Johannesburg, contains the interesting announcement that the Nova has been identified with a star of magnitude 11.0, on the C.P.D. photographic scale, which appears on photographs taken with the Franklin-Adams Star Camera on March 17, 1914, March 18, 1914, February 10, 1921.

Its brightness before the outburst is slightly less than that of Nova Aquilæ 1918, and considerably less than that of T Coronæ.

The position for 1925.0 is R.A. 6^h 34^m 57^s.2, S. Decl. 62° 34' 33"; annual precession +0^s.528, S. 3^o.02. Dr. H. Spencer Jones stated at the meeting of the British Astronomical Association on June 24, that the Cape photographs of the spectrum indicated the usual bright bands, but they showed less shift than was the case with most Novæ. The bands were less conspicuous 10 days after discovery, although the magnitude had risen from 2.4 to 2.0.

COMETS.—Several observations of Tempel's comet have been obtained. Its magnitude is about 11; as it approaches both earth and sun during July it will steadily brighten, but this is offset by its southward motion.

The following ephemeris for 0^h is by M. Ebell (B.Z. 24):

	R.A.	S. Decl.	log r.	log Δ.
July 1.	18 ^h 30 ^m 47 ^s	4° 58'	0.140	9.578
9.	18 34 46	8 50	0.133	9.545
17.	18 40 27	13 40	0.127	9.522
25.	18 48 32	19 24	0.122	9.509

The comet is due south about 23^h. It is near 2 Aquilæ on July 9. This comet has the third shortest period of any known comet. Encke and Skjellerup (1922 I) come at the head of the list.

Mr. J. Larink has deduced a new orbit of Schorr's Comet (1918 III).

T = 1918 Sept. 28.603 G.M.T.
ω = 278° 38' 47"
Ω = 118 0 33
i = 5 35 2
φ = 28 5 1

Period, 6.7071 years.

Mr. Larink finds 1925 May 27.90 G.M.T. (new) for the recent perihelion and gives the following search ephemeris:

	R.A.	N. Decl.	log r.	log Δ.
July 17.	5 ^h 12 ^m 48 ^s	19° 38'	0.274	0.418
21.	5 22 54	19 51	0.276	0.416
25.	5 33 0	20 1	0.278	0.413
29.	5 42 54	20 9	0.280	0.411

The comet was observed in 1918 more than three months after perihelion, so its detection this year is not hopeless, though the conditions are less favourable. Since it was discovered at Bergedorf, the astronomers of that observatory (to which Mr. Larink belongs) are making special efforts to recover it.