practical applications are dealt with as well as the fundamental theories. The membership of the Congress numbered about 240, and was well representative of all the centres of scientific photographic activity.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A chemist and metallurgist in the Government Assay Office in Cairo—A. G. Innes, c/o Chief Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian Government, 41 Tothill Street, S.W.1 (August 17). A lecturer in economics at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad—The Secretary of the College, 14 Trinity Square, E.C.3 (August 24). An assistant to the professor of surgery in the University of Bristol—The Registrar (August 28). An extra mural organiser at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—The Registrar (August 31). Junior assistants at the National Physical Laboratory, preferably with some research or technical experience in either physics, engineering or electrical engineering—The Director, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington (September 4). An assistant lecturer in textile engineering at the Manchester Municipal College of Technology—The Registrar (September 20). An assistant secretary of the Oxford University Appointments Committee—The Secretary, 40 Broad Street, Oxford (October 1). A full-time assistant, or two part-time assistants, in the Department of History and Method of Science of University College, London—The Secretary, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1. Evening teachers in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering at the Croydon Polytechnic—The Principal, Central Polytechnic, Scarbrook Road, Croydon. Full-time teachers in the Physics and Chemistry Departments of the Northern Polytechnic—The Clerk to the Governors, Northern Polytechnic, Holloway, N.7.—A junior assistant under the directorate of Metallurgical Research, Research Department, Woolwich, for work mainly in connexion with technical records, reports and literature—The Chief Superintendent, Research Department, Woolwich, S.E.18.

Our Astronomical Column.

FINLAY'S COMET.—This periodic comet was discovered by Mr. Finlay, Chief Assistant at the Cape Observatory, in 1886, and was observed again in 1893, 1906, 1919. S. Kanda and S. Hasunuma, of Tokyo Observatory, calculated from the 1919 observations the conditions of the present return, the perturbations by Jupiter in the interim having been considerable, producing an increase of about 6 weeks in the period. With the aid of their ephemeris, Dr. J. Stobbe succeeded in photographing the comet on August 3 at Bergedorf Observatory, near Hamburg. Its magnitude was 11·5, and its position at $0^h\ 40{\cdot}6^m$ U.T. was R.A. $4^h\ 3^m\ 48^s$, N. Decl. 17° 48′. The position indicates that perihelion occurred Aug. 7·9 U.T., which is 0·7 day later than the Tokyo prediction.

The following ephemeris is for 0^h U.T.

	R.A.	N. Decl.
Aug. 15.	$4^h\ 56{\cdot}3^m$	20° 33′
19.	5 12·8	21 14
23.	5 28·6	21 47
27.	5 43·9	22 13
31.	5 58·8	22 32

The comet is a morning object passing near ζ Tauri on August 23, and entering Gemini on August 31. It is well placed for observation, but is growing slowly fainter, since the distance from both sun and earth is increasing.

A plate was exposed by Mr. F. J. Hargreaves of Kingswood, Surrey, on July 21 at $1^h\ 53{\cdot}5^m$ U.T. At first the comet was not detected upon it, but with the guidance of Dr. Stobbe's position, Mr. P. J. Melotte found a faint impression of the comet in R.A. $3^h\ 2^m\ 30{\cdot}8^s$, N. Decl. 13° 19′ 36″ (Equinox 1926·0).

THE NEW SOLAR RADIATION STATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.—A bulletin issued by the Smithsonian Institution describes Dr. C. G. Abbot's journey of 30,000 miles in search of the most suitable station in the eastern hemisphere. The desiderata were an elevated region, dry clear air, reasonable accessibility, and absence of wild tribes. This last consideration caused the rejection of Khojak Peak, 70 miles northwest of Quetta, though the sky conditions were superb. Stations in the Sahara, Egypt, and Mt. Sinai were visited and rejected. His choice fell on Mt. Brukkaros in South-West Africa, 200 miles south of Windhoek, and 20 miles from the railway. It is an isolated peak 5200 feet above the sea, and 2000 feet above the surrounding plain. The sky was found to be remarkably clear, the stars being brilliant right down to the horizon. The rainfall is very small, none having fallen for ten months. There is a crater at the top with a gap to the south-east, which was found to be suitable for the excavation of a tunnel for the bolometer. The sun will be observable an hour after sunrise. A neighbouring cave will be converted into a residence for the observers, Mr. W. H. Hoover and Mr. F. A. Greeley.

Mr. A. Dryden, Public Works Inspector, S.W. Africa, has undertaken the preparation of the building, and it is hoped to commence observations in September. There are prospects of daily observations for ten months in the year, and for three-quarters of the days in the remaining two months (the so-called rainy season). The Observatory is to supplement, not to replace, the stations already existing in Chile and California.

PROPER MOTIONS OF SOUTHERN STARS.—*Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society*, vol. 64 (part 2), contains a catalogue of proper motions in declination of 1738 southern stars by Dr. J. E. de Vos van Steenwijk. The recent observations of the stars were made by himself at La Plata. They are compared with older observations made at the Cape, Parramatta, Santiago, Madras, and other southern observatories. The systematic corrections given by Boss have been applied. The magnitudes range from $5{\cdot}8^m$ to $8{\cdot}8^m$. The probable errors of annual motion are given; they are mainly in the neighbourhood of 0·006″.

The following seven large motions are believed to be new: No. 166, mag. 6·1, type F8, P.M. + 0·245″; No. 200, mag. 6·4, type Go, P.M. + 0·457″; No. 470, mag. 6·9, type F8, P.M. + 0·713″; No. 631, mag. 7·4, type F8, P.M. + 0·593″; No. 1529, mag. 7·9, type B3, P.M. − 0·370″; No. 1774, mag. 7·0, type Ko, P.M. − 0·814″; No. 2664, mag. 7·2, type B8, P.M. − 0·490″. It is unfortunate that the motions in R.A. are not given.