

chromatic," which are claimed to be an improvement both in field and in definition, the field being half as large again as with the ordinary Huyghenian type.

ANOTHER volume of "Alumni Cantabrigienses," compiled by the late J. Venn and J. A. Venn, is announced by the Cambridge University Press. It will complete the first half of the work and bring the biographical record of all known Cambridge men down to the year 1751.

MESSRS. Longmans and Co., Ltd., announce for early publication "Flame and Combustion in Gases," by Prof. W. A. Bone and Dr. D. T. A. Townend. The book will review the results of modern research and the present state of science regarding gaseous combustion and explosions. It will consist of five sections, dealing respectively with the principal discoveries from the time of Boyle to the end of the Bunsen era (1660-1880); ignition phenomena, flame propagation through explosive mixtures, detonation flame structure and temperatures; pressure development during gaseous explosions in closed vessels; the mechanism of combustion; and catalytic or surface combustion.

NOTICE is given that applications for the Government grant for scientific investigations for the present year must be received by, at latest, March 31, at the offices of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1. The applications must be upon a printed form obtainable from the Clerk to the Government Grant Committee, c/o the Royal Society.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A de-

monstrator in bacteriology at University College Hospital Medical School—Prof. A. E. Boycott, University College Hospital Medical School, University Street, W.C.1 (Feb. 7). An assistant chemist under the Northern Coke Research Committee—Prof. Briscoe, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Feb. 7). A male medical inspector of factories—The Industrial Division, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1 (Feb. 21). A senior lecturer in anatomy in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg—The Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2 (Feb. 28). The Stevenson lectureship in citizenship in the University of Glasgow—The Secretary, University Court, The University, Glasgow (Feb. 28). A lecturer and demonstrator in organic chemistry in the University of Sydney—The Agent-General for New South Wales, Australia House, Strand, W.C.2 (Feb. 28). An assistant Government analyst in Nigeria—The Private Secretary (Appointments), Colonial Office, 38 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (Feb. 28). A Director of Antiquities in Palestine—The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.1 (March 14). A helminthologist at the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar, P.O. Ritani, U.P., India—The Director, Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar, P.O. Ritani, U.P., India (March 15).

ERRATUM.—In NATURE of Jan. 22, p. 114, col. 2, line 20 ("The Life of a Nilotic Tribe"), for "effect" read "affect."

Our Astronomical Column.

COMETS.—Mr. H. E. Wood, of Johannesburg, has telegraphed the following parabolic orbit of the new comet 1927 *a* discovered by Mr. T. B. Blathwayt.

$$\begin{aligned} T &= 1927 \text{ Feb. } 12.720 \text{ U.T.} \\ \omega &= 228^\circ 52' \\ \Omega &= 18 \ 40 \\ i &= 90 \ 31 \end{aligned} \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} T \\ \omega \\ \Omega \\ i \end{aligned}} \right\} 1927.0$$

$$\log q = 0.02522$$

An ephemeris deduced from these elements shows that the comet is unlikely to be seen in Great Britain, for it will remain below the horizon until April, and after that will only be above it in a bright sky. Its track lies through Scorpio, Ara, Telescopium, Pavo, Indus, Toucan, Phœnix, Fornax, Eridanus. It is nearest to the earth, 106 million miles, in mid-February. It should then be a conspicuous telescopic object for southern observers.

The Comas Sola object of Jan. 10 is probably a minor planet. Its approximate position on Jan. 29 will be R.A. 7^h 51^m, S. Decl. 3° 14'. There is not yet sufficient material to hand to deduce the orbit.

A NEW REFLECTING TELESCOPE FOR EDINBURGH.—An article in the *Scotsman* of Jan. 11 contains the welcome announcement that the Observatory at Blackford Hill, Edinburgh, is shortly to obtain a large reflecting telescope of Cassegrain type, together with a spectrograph. The exact dimensions are not stated, but as it will be "at least as great as any other in this country," its minimum aperture may be

presumed to be 30 inches. The proposed field of work is stellar photometry and spectroscopy. The useful work that has been accomplished in these fields in recent years at Edinburgh gives rise to the hope of very important results being obtained when the new instrument is in working order. The article also gives an interesting sketch of the history of the Observatory, which started on Calton Hill about 1818, and was moved to its present site in 1889 as a result of the benevolence of the late Lord Crawford, who offered his valuable collection of instruments and books on condition that the State provided proper buildings and maintenance for them. The offer was accepted and the new department placed under the Scottish Office.

A LARGE SUNSPOT.—A large single sunspot which was seen with the naked eye was on the sun's central meridian on Jan. 19 and continued on the disc until Jan. 25. This is the third spot or group of spots large enough to be seen this year without telescopic aid. Other particulars are as follows:

No.	Date on Disc.	Central Meridian Passage.	Latitude.	Area.
3	Jan. 13-25	Jan. 19.3	25° N.	1/1100 of sun's hemisphere.

A number of other spots across the sun's disc and patches of bright faculae at the east and west limbs have been located with ease in small refracting telescopes 2 in. or 3 in. in aperture.