APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned :—A chief veterinary inspector under the Surrey County Council—The Clerk of the County Council, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames (Mar. 31). A senior demonstrator of pathology in St. Bartholomew's Medical College—The Dean, St. Bartholomew's Medical College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1 (April 6). An officer-in-charge of the wood preservation section of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, India—The Secretary to the High Commissioner for India, 42 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1 (April 8). A head of the textile department of the Municipal Technical College, Bolton—The Director of Education, Nelson Square, Bolton (April 8). An assistant in the Forest Products Research Laboratory, for work on the identification and structure of wood, and an assistant in the Entomology sub-section of the same laboratory—The Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (April 9). An assistant government chemist for forest research in the Federated Malay States—The Private Secretary (Appointments), Colonial Office, 38 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (April 14). An assistant to the pathologist of the Manchester Committee on Cancer, for laboratory work and the supervision of the maintenance of animals—The Chairman of the Manchester Committee on Cancer, 1 Mount Street, Manchester (April 16). Demonstrators (men or women) in the departments of chemistry and physics of Bedford College for Women—The Secretary, Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W.1 (May 7). A professor of natural history at University College, Galway—The Secretary (May 14). A professor of mathematics and a reader in physics in the University of Dacca, Bengal—The Registrar, University of Dacca, East Bengal (May 31). A Ramsay Memorial fellow for chemical research—The Secretary, Ramsay Memorial Fellowship Trust, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1 (June 6). A cancer research fellow in the department of experimental pathology and cancer research of the University of Leeds—The Clerk to the Senate, The University, Leeds. A woman lecturer in biology and nature study at the Norwich Training College—The Principal. A lecturer in geography at the Lincoln Training College—The Principal. A senior biology mistress at the Cheltenham Ladies' College—The Principal. A head of the chemical department of the Leicester College of Technology—The Registrar. A junior assistant in the Experimental Stores department of the Experimental Station, Porton — The Commandant.

Our Astronomical Column.

COMETS.—Two further observations of Stearns's comet have come to hand, as follows; they are for the equinox of 1927·0:

U.T.	R.A.	S. Decl.	Observer.	Place.
Mar. 14·08354	15h 15m 6·6s	6° 11′ 54″	Möller	Copenhagen.
15·15479	15 14 46·5	5 51 26	Vinter-Hansen Struve	Babelsberg.

The following orbit by Mr. L. E. Cunningham has been telegraphed from Harvard and distributed by the I.A.U. Bureau :

T 1927 Sept. 6·200 U.T.
ω 48° 59′
Ω 214 54 } 1927·0
i 92 29
log q 0·50406

It would appear that some error has been made in telegraphing Ω, as the above orbit fails to represent the observations. A correction of about +14′·6, making it 215° 8′·6 is indicated.

Mr. Möller has computed the following ephemeris from the uncorrected orbit; it is for 0h, and the R.A. is likely to need a correction of about +1m:

	R.A.	Decl.		R.A.	N. Decl.
Mar. 20.	15h 11m 36s	4° 6′ S.	Apr. 13.	14h 53m 52s	5° 24′
28.	15 7 8	1 9 S.	21.	14 45 32	8 49
Apr. 5.	15 1 8	2 3 N.	29.	14 36 28	12 10

The orbit is still very uncertain, owing to the slow motion and the shortness of the observed arc. If it is approximately correct the brightness is likely to increase considerably, but the comet will not attain naked-eye visibility.

The following positions of comet Pons-Winnecke are by Prof. G. van Biesbroeck :

U.T.	R.A. 1927·0.	N. Decl.	Mag.
Feb. 27·26042	14h 6m 58·69s	24° 28′ 17″·5	17
Mar. 3·43021	14 12 20·42	25 45 23 ·7	16·5
4·30822	14 13 24·72	26 2 29 ·5	16·2

FIREBALL OF MAR. 1.—Mr. W. F. Denning writes "There was a splendid meteor on Feb. 25 just before midnight, and another, scarcely less luminous and striking, appeared on Mar. 1, at 5.44 A.M. The latter has, however, received little comment for, like many others which pass almost unrecorded, it came at a time when people generally are asleep. The meteor was described by an observer at Staines as a huge green star with a tail of fire. At Peckham it was seen as a large green fireball with a vivid light and leaving a shower of sparks. There are six observations, including reports from Winchester and Hoddeston, Herts. The radiant point appears to have been in the Lynx or northern region of Gemini, and the height of the meteor 72 to 50 miles above the region of Hertford to near St. Valery on the French coast. One observer estimated the apparent diameter of the head of the meteor as a half that of the moon's diameter; another thought it equal in size to a tennis ball, but all agree as to the great intensity of its light and the startling effect of its sudden apparition."

PROPER MOTIONS OF FAINT STARS.—There have been many recent determinations of the proper motions of faint stars by photography. In *Mon. Not. Roy. Astr. Soc.* for Dec. 1926, Dr. W. M. Smart analyses the proper motions of 3029 stars from photographs taken with the Sheepshanks equatorial at Cambridge at an interval of twenty-two years. The apices of the two drifts are found as: Drift I, α 88°, δ − 12°; Drift II, α 289°, δ − 73°. The latter δ is farther south than other determinations. The position of the solar apex is found as α 273°·2, δ + 43°·6. The R.A. is in good accord with the accepted value, the declination is some 14° farther north. The speed of the solar motion agrees closely with that found by Prof. Eddington from the much brighter stars in Boss's Catalogue.

Dr. H. Knox Shaw gives in *Mon. Not.* for Jan. 1927 a list of 17 large proper motions of faint stars in the Kapteyn selected areas. They are all more than 10″ a century: the largest amounts to 50″ a century, being that of a 15th magnitude star in R.A. 5h 9m 44s, N. decl. 60° 24′ (1900). It should be worth while to examine this star for parallax. It is probably an extreme dwarf.