

Hogarth's brilliant summaries of geographical and historical knowledge, "The Nearer East," "The Penetration of Arabia," "The Ancient East," and "The Balkans," is his monumental catalogue of the "Hittite Seals" of the Ashmolean Museum (1922), and the numerous short articles which announced, interpreted, and thereby in a very real sense guided the progress of discovery in the difficult history and ethnography of Asia Minor and North Syria. Though he never brought his materials together into a general survey—for which, indeed, the time is scarcely yet come—this group of problems was

that to which his mind seemed most spontaneously to recur; to which he gave all time spared from the more urgent 'accidents' which beset a 'wandering scholar'; on which his judgment was most in demand among colleagues who had not his distractions and occasions. Had he entered the army (as at one time he desired), Hogarth might have been a great commander, for he could handle men, and his decisions were those of a 'cavalry-mind.' In his actual career he was a superb scout, with a general's outlook over the prospects and trend of exploration. J. L. M.

News and Views.

THE appearance of Prof. C. T. R. Wilson's name in the list of Nobel prize winners for 1927 will be received with acclamation by physicists throughout the world. The poised perfection of his experimental work and the subtle ingenuity of his methods have long been the admiration and the despair of workers in the same or in cognate fields. Prof. Wilson is, perhaps, best known for his experiments on the tracks of ionising particles in gases, work which has occupied him, at intervals, from the time when he joined the first group of research students under Sir J. J. Thomson, some thirty years ago. His discovery that gaseous ions would serve as nuclei for the deposition of water drops was the basis of the first methods of measuring the charge on an electron. With definite patience and resource, the technique of these early experiments has been gradually perfected, until now it is possible to make visible, and to photograph, the actual tracks of ionising particles, to count their number, and to watch every twist and turn in their paths. The power of rendering visible, at will, the actual paths of particles which, themselves, must remain for ever invisible is a weapon of no small value in investigating the behaviour of these particles, and Prof. Wilson's apparatus is being employed more and more in our great research laboratories, almost always with striking and important success. Prof. Wilson, however, is not known only by his work on 'tracks.' He is one of our foremost experts on atmospheric electricity; and it would be both unfair and ungrateful not to recall in conclusion his 'tilted' electroscopes, a measuring device which made possible much of the early work on ionisation in gases.

PROF. ARTHUR COMPTON, of Chicago, who divides with Prof. Wilson the Nobel prize for physics for 1927, belongs to the younger school of American physicists, and has distinguished himself by the daring originality of his speculations, as well as by the variety and ingenuity of his experiments. Adopting the new 'quantum' theory in its most extreme form, he was able to calculate the change in wave length which should occur when X-rays are scattered, and by very able experimental work to obtain confirmation of his calculations. The technique of these experiments was so difficult that it was some time before the results were confirmed by other workers, and some controversy arose as to the genuineness of the effect. In the

end, however, the Compton effect was finally established, and it stands to-day as the firmest individual piece of evidence in favour of the hypothesis of localised light quanta.

THE recent judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Inland Revenue Commissioners v. Yorkshire Agricultural Society*, before the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Atkin, and Lord Justice Lawrence, is significant as indicating the confusion and difficulty prevailing in interpreting what is or what is not a 'charity' within the meaning of the Income Tax Acts. The Commissioners had refused the claim of the Society to exemption, whilst on appeal to the Special Commissioners the claim was allowed. Mr. Justice Rowlatt in the High Court afterwards reversed the decision of the Special Commissioners; and now the Court of Appeal unanimously affirms the Special Commissioners' decision. In giving judgment for the Society the Master of the Rolls referred at length to the objects for which the Society was established, pointing out that it was formed at York in 1837 for the purpose of holding an annual meeting for the exhibition of farming stock and implements, etc., and for the general promotion of agriculture. Prizes were awarded, and the members enjoyed certain privileges and benefits. The privileges and benefits which the members derived did not, in his lordship's opinion, in any way detract from the fact that the purpose of the Society was charitable within the meaning of the Act, any more than the privileges and benefits which subscribers to other charities, such as hospitals, derived, altered the fact that they were charities. He held that this Society, which by its constitution in 1837 and since had continued for the purpose of the general improvement of agriculture and not merely for the special benefit of its members, was in fact a society for the general benefit of the community, and therefore came within the accepted definition of a charity as laid down by Lord Macnaghten (*Income Tax Commissioners v. Pemsel*, 1891). This decision should help to define the position of scientific societies in regard to exemption from income tax; for they should be able to establish, by their constitution and the aims and objects of their work, those elements of permanency and benefit to the community that the Yorkshire Society has claimed and won for agriculture.

PROF. W. A. BONE'S researches on high-pressure gaseous combustion which, with the collaboration of assistants, have been carried on since 1920 at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, have become so well known, and have so direct a bearing on new developments in chemical industry, that the extension of the work and the occurrence of greater opportunities for training in its special technique will arouse more than local interest. A generous donation and annual grant by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., together with increased assistance from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, have supplemented the funds already supporting the investigations, making possible the equipment of two new high-pressure gas research laboratories, including an experimental gas-generator plant, gas-holders ranging in capacity from 10 to 3000 cubic feet, and compressors. The explosion bombs will be capable of withstanding pressures ranging from 100 to 20,000 atmospheres, respectively, and the catalytic-tube units will withstand 500 atmospheres at 500° C. By the end of March 1928, most of the new equipment will, it is expected, be ready for operation, and a limited number of selected post-graduate research students (early application regarding the vacancies being advised) will be accepted for systematic training over a period which will usually be not less than two years. The staff will consist of four research assistants, an instructional assistant, and a mechanical assistant; the work will be directed by Prof. Bone, assisted by Dr. D. M. Newitt and Dr. D. T. A. Townend, and by Mr. W. E. Stockings.

A DISPATCH from the Cairo correspondent of the *Times* which appeared in the issue of Nov. 9 describes some of the results obtained by the excavations at Sakkara, where work has now been resumed for the season. The excavations, which began in 1923, are being carried out under the direction of Mr. Cecil Firth for the Egyptian Department of Antiquities. They have opened up an entirely new chapter in the history of Egyptian art and architecture, and may be expected to lead to even more important results in the near future. In carrying on the clearing of the Temenos surrounding the Step Pyramid, which was begun in 1926, it was discovered that at one point where the Temenos wall was higher it formed the superstructure of a tomb which proved to be of the III. Dynasty, and must have belonged to a member of the Royal family or an important personage of the court. Access was obtained to the tomb after immense labour by means of a plunderer's shaft in the rubble and giving access to a rectangular space cut in the rock, and a stairway leading at a distance of twenty yards to a doorway beyond which the stairway continued. This passage, after passing two sets of chambers, eventually reached one of the most extraordinary funeral apartments ever found. So far as explored it has two rooms which were entirely lined with blue tiles. In one room, three doors each had exquisite reliefs of King Zoser wearing the red or white crown. The tiles were arranged to give the impression that the rooms were lined with reed mats, placed vertically,

except over the panels of the doors and the drums over the doorways where they are horizontal, and give the appearance that the mats are rolled up to reveal the reliefs. A series of passages behind leads to a pit filled with debris, upon which work is now being concentrated.

COD-LIVER oil has for long been considered the most potent source of the two fat soluble vitamins A and D: but, though palatable to some, to others it possesses an unpleasant flavour which is only imperfectly disguised even when the oil is mixed with extract of malt. The discovery by Rosenheim, Webster, and Windaus (*Lancet*, 1927, vol. i. p. 306, and *NATURE*, Sept. 24, p. 440) that the parent substance of vitamin D (the antirachitic vitamin), from which it is formed by the action of ultra-violet light, is ergosterol or a highly unsaturated sterol of similar constitution, opened the way to the production of this vitamin on a large scale, under controlled conditions, and without the necessity of using cod-liver oil at any stage, since the ergosterol can be obtained either from ergot or yeast as a pure chemical compound. Although vitamin D is specific in its effect in ensuring proper calcification, its absence from the diet leading to the development of rickets, yet in its influence on growth it is associated with vitamin A: the latter is probably of the greater importance in this connexion, but its full effect in producing growth in the young animal is not observed unless vitamin D is also present. For this reason vitamin D alone would be of less general use than if accompanied by vitamin A.

THE British Drug Houses, Ltd., London, N.1, have taken advantage of the recent advances in our knowledge of the vitamins to put up preparations containing vitamins A and D obtained from sources not previously utilised. Vitamin D is made by the irradiation of ergosterol, and is issued under the name 'Radiostol' in solution as a sweetmeat pellet. Vitamin A is contained in an oil not previously used as an accessory food: it is issued, combined with vitamin D, as an oil called 'Radiostolcum.' The latter is also issued as an emulsion, 'Radiomulsin,' and as an emulsion with malt, 'Radio-Malt,' in which the malt extract provides also a supply of vitamin B. The vitamin content in these different preparations is controlled by physiological feeding tests on animals, and is higher than in cod-liver oil and its various preparations.

THE Slutzk, better known under its original title, Pavlovsk, Observatory for meteorology and geophysics, will celebrate on Dec. 4 the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. Well equipped with magnetic instruments designed by its eminent first director, H. Wild, and for many years the most northern magnetic observatory in the world, Pavlovsk has supplied a long series of valuable magnetic results, which have been utilised in many researches by foreigners as well as Russians. Observations in atmospheric electricity, begun in 1913, have supplied data of much interest in connexion with the vexed question of the true nature

of the diurnal variation of the potential gradient. Actinometry has also had a special place in the programme of the observatory during the present century. Aerological work in Russia had its origin at Pavlovsk some thirty years ago, but it is now provided for in a separate institution. Foreign participation is invited in the approaching ceremony.

An interesting biographical sketch, by Mr. Rollo Appleyard, of Heinrich Hertz, one of the greatest pioneers on the transmission of electrical waves, appears in the October number of *Electrical Communication*. At the age of twenty-three years, Hertz was elected a demonstrator in physics by Helmholtz. Three years later he became a lecturer in theoretical physics in the University of Kiel. After two years at Kiel he became professor of experimental physics at Karlsruhe, and finally he was appointed to succeed Clausius as professor of physics in the University of Bonn. His wonderful experiments on the reflection, refraction, and polarisation of electric waves created intense interest at the time and opened a new field of research. They form the foundation on which most of present-day developments on radio communication are based. The author gives photographs of Hertz's original apparatus and of the devices he employed to produce and to detect the electric waves. He points out how nearly Hertz and his colleague Lenard anticipated the discovery of Röntgen rays. Hertz himself thought it unlikely that electric waves through space could be used for communication. He died at the early age of thirty-seven. Those who knew him best remember him as a singularly modest man, one who seldom spoke of his own discoveries and never mentioned himself. When the Royal Society presented him with the Rumford medal, he silently disappeared from Bonn for a few days, giving no reason for his absence. He studied pure science exclusively, and yet the importance of his discoveries in the advancement of the practical applications of electricity is beyond measure.

OPINIONS may differ about the ethics of greyhound race-courses, but it seems likely that this form of sport will become as popular in Great Britain as it has already become in the United States. In the *Metropolitan-Vickers Gazette* for October, a good account is given of the electrical equipment of a greyhound race-course. All around the course, which is 500 yards long, a sunken trackway is constructed in which a narrow-gauge railway is laid. The trackway is covered, but an opening in the woodwork is left on the side nearest the course. Through this opening an arm projects which carries an artificial hare. The arm forms the axle of a rubber-tired wheel above which is the hare. It is attached to an electrically-propelled truck which collects the electric current from a third rail and returns it by the ordinary rails. Special precautions have to be taken to avoid sparking, which might disturb the dogs. Acceleration and deceleration have to be very rapid and high power is therefore necessary. The running of the truck is controlled by a single operator from a control tower observation

room, so situated that a full view of the racing can be had at all times. Speeds up to 50 miles per hour are obtained, and the hare must be capable of being accelerated at a rate of not less than 2.5 miles per hour per second. When a race takes place the hare is run round the track, and immediately it has passed the boxes where the greyhounds are confined, the gate is thrown open and the dogs dash out in pursuit. The attendant keeps the hare ahead of them until the circuit is complete and then switches the truck into a siding. This causes the hare to disappear and the dogs cease to run. The Company mentions ten large towns in Great Britain for which it has supplied or is supplying the electrical equipment for the tracks.

In order to lower the price of electricity it is necessary to have all the machines in a power station running for as long a period as possible. To enable this to be done it is advisable that engineers should encourage a night load on their stations. One way of doing this is to store up energy in consumer's houses during the night time which can be utilised during the day. One of the best ways of doing this is to heat water slowly during the night by electricity, the warm water being utilised during the day. This is already done on a large scale in several places in Great Britain and abroad. In Basle there is a thriving industry in making electric water heaters and time switches. These heaters work only between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M., the switching being done automatically. The results obtained prove that this domestic storage is a boon to the consumer and is profitable to the electric supply company. The Glasgow Corporation is also encouraging domestic storage. Electricity is supplied for this purpose at the very low rate of $\frac{1}{8}$ ths of a penny per unit. The heat losses from a well-designed electric heater are so small that the consumer is scarcely affected by them. In another system, used abroad, each room of the house contains a 'heat-accumulation' stove. Each stove contains steatite blocks of high specific heat which are heated by cheap night energy. When taking energy during the night a damper at the top of the stove is kept closed. In the morning, or when-ever necessary, this is opened and convection currents circulating upwards heat the room. Another system of storage heating for large buildings is to have heating elements embedded in concrete floors. A full description of these and other methods is given by L. G. A. Sims in a series of articles in the *Electrical Review*, beginning in the issue for Oct. 21.

In travelling about the country, especially, but not entirely in out-of-the-way fishery districts, fishery enthusiasts, both amateur and professional, are frequently met with, demanding information on fishery problems, whether these relate to fish in a zoological sense, or 'shellfish.' The Fisheries Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is now making efforts to form what is, in effect, a British Fisheries Information Bureau in embryo, by supplying information (free on application to the Fisheries Secretary, 43 Parliament Street, London) in a series of numbered *Fisheries Notices*, which are small pamphlets dealing in a popular manner with fishery

problems on the biology and/or economic aspects of particular freshwater and marine fish and 'shellfish.' There remains, however, a lot of ground to be covered before the Fisheries Branch can be regarded as having supplied inquiring fishery interests, with not only that which is known, but also in many cases that which is not known, and the department concerned may reasonably be urged to speed up its work. So far the subjects dealt with are, respectively: No. 3, Precautions *re* installing motor power in fishing vessels; No. 4, Value of the herring as food; No. 5, Instructions for taking water samples in cases of pollution of fisheries; No. 6, Particulars of publications about all fishery matters; No. 7, Instructions for cooking salted herrings; No. 8, Methods of preparing and cooking freshwater fish; No. 9, On the capture of freshwater eels; No. 10, About the marking of fish; No. 11, On sheep-dips and sheep-dipping; No. 12, The life-history of the plaice; No. 13, Mussel cultivation; and No. 14, Cockle culture.

Fisheries Notices, No. 13 and No. 14, are new, and both contain interesting and informative short chapters on natural history, methods of fishing, cultivation, destructive influences and animal foes and parasites, economic uses, and also—a subject on which the Ministry can speak with authority—on pollution and purification. In both cases the account of the natural history would have been improved if it had been explained that, in spawning, the eggs are shot out of the shell, and not retained as they are in the English oyster (*O. edulis*) and some freshwater pearl mussels (*e.g.* Anodonta). Similarly, in the chapters on cultivation, the practical value of simply transplanting young individuals from situations high up in the tidal zone to lower ones, chosen with circumspection, might have been stressed to greater advantage. The mussel and cockle are, however, of relatively small value compared with the oyster, lobster, crayfish (*Palinurus*), and the various dog-fishes, about all of which the dissemination of information would be of undoubted economic value to many interested in fisheries. It is to be hoped that the Fisheries Branch has in view the issue of additional pamphlets on these subjects in the near future.

THOUGH the problem of providing adequate indexes to scientific and learned books and journals is ever to the fore and is constantly engaging the attention of the various professional bodies concerned, the old idea that indexing is essentially the work of the unskilled drudge has not been entirely eradicated. It is now proposed to form an Institute of Indexing, the main objects of which will be to encourage the compilation of efficient indexes to books, periodicals, and other literary works and papers, and to promote their intelligent use by the public, to maintain a register of qualified indexers, and generally to give advice and assistance wherever needed. It is not apparently intended that the Institute should follow in the footsteps of the old Index Society and devote itself to the actual compilation of indexes, but that primarily it should act as a trade union to represent qualified indexers in

all matters affecting their status and recognition as members of a 'key' profession. The organisers are ambitious enough to hope that there will be a grade of 'fellows' confined to fully qualified indexers, and one of ordinary members for those interested from the users' point of view or who wish to avail themselves of the advisory and other services of the Institute. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. W. R. Douglas Shaw, "Beaufort," Mornington Road, Chingford, London, E.4.

PROF. W. A. BONE will deliver a lecture entitled "Gaseous Combustion at High Pressures," in the rooms of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, on Thursday, Nov. 24, at 8 P.M.

STR ARTHUR KEITH, president of the British Association, will take the chair at the third annual Norman Lockyer lecture, "Scientific Ethics," to be delivered by the Very Rev. Doan Inge, in the Goldsmiths' Hall on Monday, Nov. 21, at 4 P.M.

PROF. E. T. WHITTAKER will deliver a lecture at the meeting of the London Mathematical Society on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 5 P.M., in the rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House. His subject will be "The Influence of Gravitation on Electromagnetic Phenomena." Members of other scientific societies are invited to attend.

THE inaugural meeting of the British Institute of Radiology, with which the Röntgen Society is now incorporated, is being held on Nov. 17 and 18, and is the first meeting of the reconstituted body. The meeting thus marks the commencement of a new era in the history of radiological organisation in Great Britain.

THREE earthquakes of moderate intensity were recorded at Kew Observatory on Nov. 14. The times of arrival of the first phases were 0 hr. 21 min. 25 sec., 5 hr. 55 min. 49 sec., and 7 hr. 33 min. 21 sec. G.M.T. The second earthquake was a repetition of the first, and the epicentre is estimated to have been 3680 miles away, probably in the Arctic Ocean. The epicentre of the third disturbance was at a distance of about 6300 miles.

THE following officers and new members of council of the London Mathematical Society were elected at annual general meeting held on Nov. 10: *President*: Prof. G. H. Hardy; *Vice-Presidents*: Prof. A. S. Eddington, Mr. R. H. Fowler, Prof. G. B. Jeffery; *Treasurer*: Dr. A. E. Western; *Librarian*: Prof. H. Hilton; *Secretaries*: Prof. G. N. Watson, Mr. F. P. White; *New Members of Council*: Prof. P. J. Daniell, Mr. A. E. Ingham, Dr. E. G. C. Poole.

APPLICATIONS for grants from the Chemical Society Research Fund must be received, on a prescribed form, by the Assistant Secretary of the Society, Burlington House, W.1, not later than Dec. 1. The income arising from the donation of the Goldsmiths' Company is more or less especially devoted to the encouragement of research in inorganic and metallurgical chemistry. The income from the Perkin Memorial Fund is applied to investigations relating to problems connected with the coal-tar and allied industries.

MESSRS. J. and A. Churchill, the well-known firm of medical and scientific publishers, have removed from Great Marlborough Street to 39 and 40 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W.1. The firm was founded in 1825 by the grandfather of the present partners, the late John Churchill, and since 1845 it has published "The Medical Directory." Its list of authors includes leading representatives of many departments of science.

WE have received from Mr. W. H. Harling, 117 Moorgate, London, E.C.2, copies of two recent sectional catalogues of drawing instruments, most of which are manufactured by the firm at the Grosvenor Works, Mount Pleasant Hill, London, E.5. Catalogue No. 5c deals with compasses, dividers, and similar instruments, both singly and in sets. The 'British Empire' (B.E.) series of instruments are made of hard-drawn electrum and fitted with stainless steel ink points; the compasses are provided with self-centring head-joints. Catalogue 8b is devoted to drawing scales and boards, T-squares, etc.;

it includes particulars of slide-rules, planimeters, and integrators of special patterns, as well as instruments made by the firm.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—Full-time teachers of carpentry and joinery, carving and modelling, and of pharmacy, in the Leicester Colleges of Art and Technology—The Registrar, Colleges of Art and Technology, Leicester (Nov. 30). A senior lecturer in the department of pure and applied science of Loughborough College—The Principal, Loughborough College, Leicestershire (Dec. 1). A mathematical master at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth—The Headmaster, Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (Dec. 15). An officer with experience of plantation work to take charge of the Oil Palm Plantation of the Government of Sierra Leone—The Private Secretary (Appointments), Colonial Office, 38 Old Queen Street, S.W.1. A head of the Arts department of the Portsmouth Municipal College—The Secretary, Office for Higher Education, Municipal College, Portsmouth.

Our Astronomical Column.

THE TRANSIT OF MERCURY.—Fine weather favoured this phenomenon in most parts of England, and a large number of observations made successful observations. The planet appeared as a well-defined black spot, decidedly darker than any of the umbræ of the large sunspot group that was nearly central on the disc. No trace was seen of any luminous ring round the portion of the disc that had passed off the sun at egress. Definition was not very good owing to the low altitude; consequently there is a range of many seconds in the times of contact given by different observers. It is most convenient to give the times as corrections to the predicted times, which were 8^h 28^m 23^s.9 for third contact, and 8^h 30^m 5^s.2 for fourth contact for London and neighbourhood. Mr. L. G. Guest, observing with an 8½-inch refractor at Ferring, Sussex, found the corrections -25^s.9 and -30^s.2. Mr. A. F. Bennett, observing with a 6-inch refractor at Leiston, Suffolk, found corrections -15^s.3 and -29^s.2. Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin, observing with a 3-inch refractor, power 40, at Blackheath, found -33^s and -48^s. The last are undoubtedly too early, the power being inadequate for accurate observation. The fact that the contacts happened some twenty seconds ahead of calculation is confirmed by other observations; a similar result was obtained in the 1924 transit; this is the direction to be expected if the unexplained lunar irregularities are due to change in the rate of the earth's rotation. It is noteworthy that observations have been obtained in England of all the four transits in the present century.

NAKED-EYE SUNSPOT.—The appearance of a large group of sunspots near the sun's central meridian was noted by observers of the transit of Mercury on the morning of Nov. 10. By the following day the group had increased perceptibly, and it became a naked-eye object for two or three days, after which its approach to the west limb with consequent foreshortening prevented its being seen without slight optical aid. A photograph taken on Nov. 6 shows the group commencing as a small spot in some faculæ which could be identified with an earlier group of spots in the preceding rotation. The increase in the size of the spots and their changes in structure between Nov. 9 and 12 denoted considerable activity. The

magnetograph traces at Greenwich show, however, no unusual disturbance of the magnetic elements. Other particulars of this group of spots are given below.

No.	Date on Disc.	Central Meridian Passage.	Latitude.	Area.
10	Nov. 6-16	Nov. 10.4	9° S.	1/800 of hemisphere

THE NUCLEUS OF COMET PONS-WINNECKE.—*L'Astronomie* for October contains an interesting drawing of this comet made by M. F. Baldet with the great Mauhin refractor at the time of its near approach to the earth last June. His photographs appeared in the September issue, but they were on an insufficient scale to bring out the extremely small size and sharpness of the stellar nucleus. The drawing is on a scale of 1 inch to 4"; it shows a well-defined central nebulosity 2½" in diameter, with a very minute stellar point in the centre. The latter was too small to measure, but M. Baldet estimates that its linear diameter did not exceed 400 metres. It presumably consisted of a compact swarm of meteoric masses. It is a matter of surprise that these have retained their compact formation for more than a century (the comet was first seen in 1819), in view of the large perturbations by Jupiter that it has experienced on several occasions.

A few weeks ago comment was made in this column on the compactness of the meteoritic swarm that is supposed to have formed Meteor Crater in Arizona by impact with the earth. The central portion of the present comet, if we accept M. Baldet's estimate of its size, seems to be of comparable dimensions. M. Baldet goes on to comment on the difficulty of supposing that such compact swarms are of great antiquity, and directs attention to the theory (first seriously proposed by R. A. Proctor) that the short-period comets are the products of eruptions from Jupiter. In this connexion it is interesting to note that the astronomers of the Jungfrau observatory report an interesting outburst on Jupiter on Oct. 11. A small bright spot suddenly appeared in the equatorial zone (having somewhat the appearance of a satellite in transit). It seems to have disappeared after a short time; but the details to hand are telegraphic and meagre.