

—The Secretary for Education, Education Offices, Oldham (April 10). An assistant master for mathematics and science at the Westcliff Day Technical and Commercial School—The Headmaster, Day Technical and Commercial School, Fairfax Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea (April 11). A pathologist and an assistant pathologist in the Pathological Department of the Royal Northern Hospital—The Secretary, Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, N.7 (April 12). Six temporary marketing investigators under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, for investigations into methods of agricultural marketing organisation—The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 Whitehall Place, S.W.1 (April 14). A director of the Bristol Municipal Museum and Art Gallery—The Town Clerk, Council House, Bristol (April 30). An assistant professor of biochemistry in the University of Alberta—The Secretary of the Board of Governors, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada (May 15). A professor of chemistry in the University College of North Wales—The Registrar,

University College of North Wales, Bangor (May 24). A male temporary junior assistant metallurgist or metallurgical chemist under the Directorate of Metallurgical Research of the Research Department, Woolwich—The Chief Superintendent, Research Department, Woolwich, S.E.18. A lecturer in mathematics and physics at the Dudley Training College for Teachers—The Secretary to the Dudley Training College Council, Education Offices, Dudley. A physicist under the Linen Industry Research Association, for work on applications of physical and colloid science to textile finishing processes—The Secretary, Research Institute, Lambeg, co. Antrim. An assistant pathologist in the Public Health Department of the Shanghai Municipal Council—J. Pook and Co., 68 Fenchurch Street, E.C.3. Two women B.Sc.s. at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories for, respectively, biochemistry or chemistry and for the bacteriological department—The Director, Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, Langley Court, Beckenham.

Our Astronomical Column.

The Trans-Neptunian Planet.—The following observations of position have been received: those of Mar. 12 and 17 were given only to the nearest second of time in R.A.:

U.T.	R.A.	N. Decl.	Place.	Observer.
Mar. 12-125	7 ^h 15 ^m 49.6±	° ' "	Flagstaff	
17-049	7 15 41±	22 7 18	Yerkes	van Biesbroeck
19-9206	7 15 39.86	22 7 38	Königstuhl	Wolf
21-9333	7 15 35.00	22 7 47	Neu-Babelsberg	Struve

The planet is now approaching the stationary point, which it will reach about the end of March. On the assumption of circular motion with radius 45 units, opposition would have taken place about Jan. 9.4 U.T., the longitude then being 108° 26.5', and south latitude 12' or 13'.

Prof. Shapley reports that the brightness has been measured at Harvard Observatory: the magnitude is 16.0 (*Morning Post*, Mar. 22). From its faintness it appears that the planet is not larger than the earth, and that its albedo is very low. Dr. Struve (who called the body a comet) gave the magnitude as 15.3.

In all probability the mass is considerably below Lowell's estimate of 6½ times the earth's; in this case, it would be largely a matter of good fortune that his predicted longitude was so near the truth. It is, however, just possible that a planet covered with liquefied gases would have a very low albedo, in which case its diameter might exceed the earth's.

Comets.—Comet discoveries are coming in quick succession, and we are already assured of four perihelion passages in 1930, apart from the possible detection of the periodic comets D'Arrest and Tempel (2). Comet 1930c was discovered by Mr. Wilk, of Cracow Observatory. It is his second discovery within three months. The following positions have been received from the I.A.U. Bureau:

U.T.	R.A.	N. Decl.	Observer.	Place.
Mar. 21 ^d 18 ^h 38.0m	1 ^h 31 ^m 2 ^s	18° 28' "	Wilk	Cracow
22 19 46.7	1 29 21.2	19 55 11	Struve	Neu-Babelsberg

Struve gave the magnitude as 5.9, so the comet should be an easy object in a small telescope. The deduced daily motion is -97^s, N. 85', which would give R.A. 1^h 18^m, N. Decl. 29° 50' on the evening of Mar. 29, about 7° south-east of β Andromedæ.

The following elliptical orbits have been computed for Beyer's comet, 1927 b. The equinox is 1930.0:

T	1930 Apr. 21.64 U.T.	1930 Apr. 28.5760
ω	26° 27'	29° 54' 53.4"
Ω	116 33	116 53 12.7
i	71 17	70 5 47.4
log q	0.3120	0.301150
Period	640.6 years	91.503 years

Computer, Mr. Bower and Miss Moore. Observations, Jan. 23, Feb. 18, Mar. 14. Dr. C. H. Smiley. Feb. 19, Mar. 2, 13.

The comet is a good deal fainter than Wilk's, but is approaching perihelion, and is visible with moderate instruments. The following ephemeris is for 0^h U.T. (*I.A.U. Circ.* 258):

	R.A.	N. Decl.
Mar. 29	6 ^h 9 ^m 9 ^s	39° 11'
Apr. 2	6 11 42	40 32
	6 6 14 52	41 49
	10 6 18 36	43 3

Mr. F. E. Seagrave finds a period of 20,000 years for Wilk's earlier comet, 1929 d. This should only be taken to imply that there is very little deviation from parabolic motion.

Observatory at Bedford College, London.—The completion of a fresh wing at the Bedford College for Women (University of London) has made possible the erection of a small observatory on the roof of the new building. The Woolwich Arsenal Institution, acting on the advice of the Astronomer Royal, generously handed over to the College a seven-inch refracting telescope by Grubb, which had been at the Institution since 1872, and which it is now hoped will enter on a new sphere of usefulness. The Astronomer Royal performed the opening ceremony on Mar. 17, the chair being taken by Prof. H. H. Turner. Sir Frank Dyson gave an address on "Everyday Astronomy", in which he pointed out how little is known of astronomy from a practical point of view, even by educated people interested in the theoretical side, and indicated how the simpler phenomena may be studied by comparatively simple observations leading up to the more detailed observations which the telescope makes possible.