

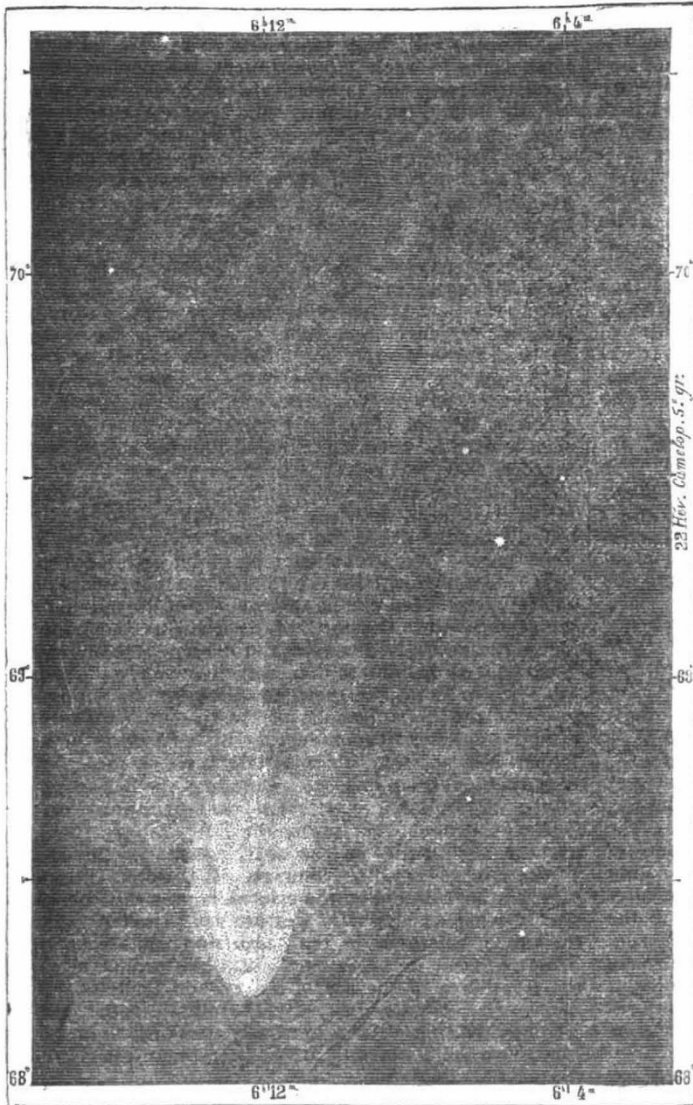
spheric pressure was under 28·000 inches, the lowest being 27·865 inches at the Butt of Lewis, at which low point the barometer stood from 4.30 to 7 a.m. of the 27th.

PHOTOGRAPH OF COMET B, 1881

PHOTOGRAPHY has already proved of great service to astronomy, and its value in reproducing with un-failing accuracy and permanently preserving an observation is evident. It is long since the art has been utilised in the observation of eclipses; with De La Rue's

to the circumstances under which the photograph of the comet was taken. It was obtained on July 1, 1881, at oh. 37m. under the following conditions:—The operators used a telescope of half a metre aperture and 1·60m. focal length. The plates of gelatino-bromide of silver, extra sensitive, were manipulated and developed in darkness. The time of exposure was thirty minutes. Arrangements were made to counteract the proper movement of the comet in addition to the diurnal movement. The impression of the tail extends to more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  degrees; and the head of the comet assumed very great dimensions;

but the details of the tail show that the movement of the instrument has kept pace with that of the object. The rectilinear rays are a revelation of the photograph, which moreover shows some very small stars not seen in any celestial atlas.



Facsimile of a photograph of the Great Comet B 1881, taken at the Observatory of Meudon, July 1, 1881.

photographs of the moon we are all familiar, while those of sun-spots have recently attained a rare degree of perfection. And now at last photography has been successfully applied to comets by Dr. Janssen at the Meudon Observatory, Paris. The woodcut we give to-day of Comet B is from our French contemporary *La Nature*, and has been revised by Dr. Janssen himself, so that it may be accepted as a faithful reproduction of his photograph. Dr. Janssen also gives some interesting details as

the right side and below, for the right basal portion is totally distorted.

Wishing to know something positive as to the custom in Borneo, I wrote to the well-known naturalist and collector, Mr. Everett, who is now living in Papan, North Borneo, and who sojourned a long time in Sarawak before. Mr. Everett had the kindness to answer, in a letter dated August 25, 1880: "With regard to the custom of flattening the skull, I have heard that it is

ON ARTIFICIAL DEFORMATION OF THE HUMAN SKULL IN THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO

MR. CROCKER mentioned, in the *Proceedings* of the Royal Geographical Society of London in the beginning of this year, that the Milanows, a coast tribe in North-West Borneo, between Bruni and Tandjong Agri, Sarawak, flatten their heads by means of pressure in infancy, but not to the extent of disfigurement, a custom, Mr. Crocker adds, which is peculiar to this tribe, and occurs nowhere else in the Archipelago.

This last statement induces me to show that, on the contrary, the custom is spread through the whole vast area from Sumatra to Timorlaut, and north to the Philippines; I even believe that it is not going too far to say that almost no large island within this region can be found, where the custom of artificial deformation of the skull is not, or has not been in use. Having treated of the geographical distribution of the custom all over the globe in a paper "Ueber künstlich-deformirte Schädel von Borneo und Mindanao im königl. anthropologischen Museum zu Dresden, nebst Bemerkungen über die Verbreitung der Sitte der künstlichen Schädel-Deformation," I shall restrict myself here to the Malay Archipelago.

To begin with Borneo: I procured last year a skull from Sarawak, over which a basket of ratan was so closely twisted, that it could but with difficulty be freed. When taken out I immediately perceived that it must have been artificially deformed; the whole occiput was flattened in a way which could not have been due to other causes. This skull (Fig. 1) must have hung a long time in the basket over a fireplace, for it was blackened and dusty all over. The direction of the pressure in youth had been, besides perpendicularly from behind, from