

## OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

COMET 1913f (DELAVAN).—Delavan's comet is now a more prominent object in the evening sky, and can be picked up by anybody without an ephemeris: it has a tail of considerable length and brightness. The comet is rapidly moving in declination covering about  $3^{\circ}$  in four days. It is also visible as a morning object. The comet passes perihelion on October 26, and in the meantime should become brighter. The following is a continuation of Prof. Biesbroeck's ephemeris up to the end of the present month:—

	R.A.			Dec.
	h.	m.	s.	
Oct. 22 ...	13	56	0	+29 33
26 ...	14	12	0	26 27
30 ...	14	26	36	23 25

We are indebted to Prof. David Todd for a print, here reproduced, of a photograph of the comet taken



Delavan's Comet, September, 1914. Photographed at Stockholm Observatory. Exposure, one hour.

last month by Dr. Karl Bohlin at the Stockholm Observatory.

ENCKE'S COMET.—The October number of the *Observatory* publishes the elements and ephemeris of Encke's comet as computed by M. L. Matkewitsch, of Pulkova. The latter for the present month are as follows:—

	R.A.			Dec.
	h.	m.	s.	
Oct. 20 ...	8	29	44	+61 37
22 ...	9	26	3	60 28
24 ...	10	20	21	57 42
26 ...	11	7	51	53 27
28 ...	11	46	43	48 7
30 ...	12	17	33	+42 10

The corrections to this ephemeris on about October 27 are given as R.A. +8s., declination  $-6'$ . It is stated that the comet will be nearest the earth on October 27, and is generally a fairly conspicuous object when perihelion occurs in winter. It has sometimes been glimpsed with the naked eye.

THE RECENT ECLIPSE EXPEDITIONS.—Further news is to hand regarding the experiences of some of the recent eclipse expeditions (the *Observatory*, October). The party from the Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge, seems to have had particularly bad luck, for not only did a thick detached cloud completely hide

the whole of the total phase, but even the telegrams announcing the complete failure of the observations never reached home. Prof. Newall, who writes this account, draws the moral of "the importance of spreading the camps of observing parties even in the restricted area chosen for a station of observation." Prof. Perrine set up his instruments in the same camp as the Cambridge party, and suffered a similar fate. While this camp was about four kilometres from Theodosia, on a site one kilometre nearer Theodosia, MM. Beljowsky and Neujmin obtained observations for about 30 seconds. At Theodosia the eclipse was seen in blue sky between patches of cloud, and observations were made during the whole total phase. Among the observers there were Signor Ricco, Count de la Pluvinel, Dr. Donitch, Prof. Sternberg (Moscow), M. Crétien (Nice), and M. Ascarza (Madrid). Dr. Backlund's expedition to Riga met with success, and Prof. Newall refers to "the beautiful photographs of the corona" secured by M. Kostinsky, who was of that party. Prof. Campbell and his party, who observed at Kiev, had adverse weather conditions.

An interesting account of the Greenwich Eclipse Expedition is given by Mr. H. S. Jones, one of the official observers. This party, at Minsk (Russia), had a narrow escape, for "when totality commenced a long cloud was approaching the sun, but fortunately did not reach it until the last second of totality." The whole programme was thus carried out. The corona he describes as "comparatively bright, and of a steely-blue whiteness, with no trace of yellow—it was of the intermediate type, with four streamers, resembling somewhat the 1898 corona."

SOCIETÀ DEGLI SPETTROSCOPISTI ITALIANI.—The July and August numbers of the *Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani* contain numerous contributions of interest on various subjects. In the July number the variable R. Leporis is dealt with by E. Padova, who publishes some new observations and a calculation of the period, which he gives as 438.93 days. This is Hind's famous crimson star, which in 1845 was described by him as "of the most intense crimson, resembling a blood-drop on the background of the sky. . . ." Some new observations and a discussion of them relating to the variable ST Ursæ Majoris are communicated by G. Silva. A preliminary note by E. Paci describes the observations made for the determination of the latitude of the centre of the cupola of the Etna Observatory. The observations were secured during 1913 by the Horrebow-Talcott method, and the value derived was  $+37^{\circ} 44' 8.392''$ . The last-mentioned author contributes two papers to the August issue, the first dealing with a study of the Ertel meridian circle of the Catania Observatory, and the second with the difference of longitude between Catania and Palermo as determined by telegraph by Ricco and Zona in 1894. After giving the details of the observations, he derives the value  $6m. 54.7826s. \pm 0.0055$ , as being the difference of longitude between the two observatories. This number concludes with the obituary notices and portraits of Giuseppe Lorenzoni and Edward S. Holden, written by A. Antoniazzi and W. W. Campbell respectively.

## ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE Australian meeting of 1914 will always occupy a prominent place in the annals of the British Association, if only on account of the interest attaching to the proceedings of its Anthropological Section. Not only did the representatives of this rapidly developing branch of science muster in full strength, but their