

Zealand) Institute and Museum—The High Commissioner for New Zealand, 415 Strand, W.C.2 (July 20). Assistant civil engineers in Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Admiralty, and H.M. Naval Establishments at home and abroad—The Civil Engineer-in-Chief, Admiralty, London, S.W.1 (July 20). An assistant lecturer in zoology—The Registrar, University College of North Wales, Bangor (July 20). A junior physicist at the Building Research Station, Garston, nr. Watford—The Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (July 20). A demonstrator in zoology at the Royal College of Science—The Secretary, Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, S.W.7 (July 23). A student probationer (zoologist or physiologist)—The Director, Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth (July 25). A curator of radium at the General Hospital, Birmingham—The House Governor, General Hospital, Birmingham (July 25). A lecturer in geology at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—The Registrar, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (July 27). An assistant chemist (woman) for the Air Ministry, Kidbrooke—The Secretary (I.G.), Air Ministry, W.C.2. A physico-chemist at the Indian Lac Research Institute, for research work in the problems connected with harvesting, storage, manufacturing, and packing lac and shellac—"India", care of

Messrs. Richardson and Co., 26 King Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. A visiting lecturer in engineering science and a full-time chemistry master at the Borough Polytechnic Institute—The Principal, Borough Polytechnic Institute, Borough Road, S.E.1. A full-time teacher of general engineering subjects at the Acton Technical Institute—Mr. J. E. Smart, Municipal Offices, Acton, W.3. A part-time instructor in mechanical engineering at the Watford Technical School—The Principal, Technical School, Watford. Pathologists in Nigeria on the West African Medical Staff—The Private Secretary (Appointments), Colonial Office, 2 Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, S.W.1. An assistant experimental officer for design duties at the Government experimental establishment, Biggin Hill, Kent—The Secretary, R.E. Board, 14 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1. An expert in animal husbandry, and a director of the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, India—The Under-Secretary of State, Economic and Overseas Department, India Office, Whitehall, S.W.1. Two junior assistants, one in physics and one in chemistry, under the British Boot, Shoe, and Allied Trades Research Association—The Director of Research of the Association, 19 Bedford Square, W.C.1. A biologist at the Rothamsted Experimental Station for research work in general microbiology—The Secretary, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.

Our Astronomical Column.

**New Minor Planet.**—A planet, the provisional designation of which is 1929KA, was recently discovered at Heidelberg; it had the unusually rapid motion of 27' northwards per diem. Dr. G. Stracke gives an ephemeris in *Beobachtungs-Zirkular*, No. 23; its magnitude is now 13.3 and is slowly diminishing. He states that the rapid motion arises from a combination of great eccentricity and high inclination, the planet being now near perihelion. Its position on July 16 is R.A. 16<sup>h</sup> 32<sup>m</sup>.0; N. Decl. 5° 3'. It is then nearly stationary in R.A. and is moving north 5' daily.

**Solar Activity.**—Observations of sunspots and faculae for the first half of 1929 show that the sun's activity is definitely declining towards minimum, which may be expected in about four years' time. As another indication of the progress of the 11-yr. solar cycle, it may be noted that the shape of the corona seen during the total eclipse of May 9 last was of intermediate type. Although the sun's activity is lessening, occasional large sunspots may be expected. In the preceding cycle, for example, the most extensive stream of spots seen for nearly half a century occurred in 1920, three years after the maximum. A couple of large spots have recently been seen together on the disc, nearly on the same meridian but on opposite sides of the sun's equator. Both were visible to the naked eye for a few days. Particulars of these spots are given in the following table in continuation of that given in NATURE of Mar. 16, p. 425:

No.	Date on Disc.	Central Meridian Passage.	Latitude.	Area on June 24.
5	June 18-30	June 24.0	9° S.	1/1350
6	June 18-30	June 24.5	13° N.	1/2000

(Areas express proportion of hemisphere covered.)

**Catalogue of the Comparison Stars for Eros.**—It is now only a year and a half before the very near approach of Eros to the earth in January 1931.

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Prof. Kopff prepared a list of stars suitable for use as comparison stars on this occasion; many observatories have co-operated in observing them. Prof. P. Stroobant, Director of the Uccle Observatory, is one of the first to publish results. In Tome 2, Fascicule 2, of the *Annals* of the Observatory, he publishes the positions of about 400 stars, lying between north declinations 19° and 48°; these are the stars needed for the earlier portion of the apparition; Eros goes later into south declination, and the observation of the southern stars is more difficult for northern observatories. The magnitudes of the stars observed at Uccle range from 7.0 to 9.6. Some were observed eight times; a few were observed once only, but by co-operation of observatories good positions should be available.

**Russian Society for the Study of the Universe.**—The report for 1928 just issued by this Society gives details of remarkable activities shown in various branches of astronomical research. The number of members was 604, and 29 meetings took place. As an example of the work of the observing sections, it may be mentioned that 23 observers pursued solar inquiries and sent in 1789 drawings of groups and spots. Variable stars attracted 20 members, who obtained 7600 observations. The meteoric field had 30 observers, who gathered 17,200 records. The results obtained in the various departments appear to be of excellent character and extensive in amount. Fifteen volumes have been published by the Society, and the last one issued comprised 390 pages. Branches of the Society have been formed in the provinces, and these have already proved very successful in their work, as being of considerable assistance to the parent organisation at Leningrad. The marked increase in the number of members and subjects under investigation gives promise of the accomplishment of much useful research in various fields of astronomy.