

ORBIT AND EPHEMERIS OF THE COMET 1888 *f* (BARNARD),

BY J. M. SCHAEBERLE, ASTRONOMER OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

[Communicated by the Director.]

From Mr. BARNARD's observations of Oct. 31, Nov. 2, and Nov. 4, I have computed the following orbit and ephemeris of this comet:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} T &= \text{Sept. } 9.4475 \\ \omega &= 267^\circ 9'.9 \\ \Omega &= 137 \ 52.0 \\ i &= 45 \ 52.6 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Apparent equinox}$$

$$\log q = 0.04984$$

Middle place (O.—C.)

$$\Delta \cos \beta = -0'.2 \quad \Delta \beta = +0'.2$$

Helioc. coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= r [9.94271] \sin(144^\circ 57'.7 + v) \\ y &= r [9.99009] \sin(48^\circ 8'.5 + v) \\ z &= r [9.72089] \sin(297^\circ 40'.5 + v) \end{aligned}$$

Assuming that the above orbit is approximately correct, I

find that at the time of perihelion-passage the comet was in right-ascension $10^h 30^m$, and south decl. $21^\circ 44'$, and the brightness less than twice what it was at the time of discovery. The comet will continue to decrease in brightness, although for several weeks to come its distance from the earth will keep on diminishing. On Dec. 5 and Dec. 25 the computed light will be 0.68 and 0.60 respectively, that for Nov. 3.5 being unity.

EPHEMERIS FOR GREENWICH MEAN MIDNIGHT.

Date	R. A.	Decl.	$\log r$	$\log \Delta$	Br.
Nov. 3.5	^h 9 ^m 48 ^s 42	^o —14 46.9	0.1527	0.1531	1.00
“ 7.5	9 54 15	—14 7.6	0.1644	0.1533	0.95
“ 11.5	9 59 20	—13 25.9	0.1760	0.1527	0.90
“ 15.5	10 3 51	—12 42.1	0.1875	0.1514	0.86

RECENT ASTEROIDS.

In no. 184 of this Journal, p. 128, the number 280 was assigned to the asteroid discovered by PALISA Oct. 31.

But in a subsequent communication of Dr. PALISA to the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, no. 2866, he announces that, on Oct. 29, while searching for *Oppavia*, no. 255, he had observed a small planet, $13^m.7$.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Oct. 29, } 9^h 50^m 31^s \text{ Vienna M.T.} \\ \alpha &= 1^h 59^m 56^s.6 \quad \delta = +17^\circ 15' 55'' \end{aligned}$$

Subsequent observations showed its daily motion to be -54° in α and $-2'.3$ in δ ; while that of no. 255 should, according to the ephemeris, be -58° and $-2'.5$. No tele-

gram was issued, but the identity of the two now appears scarcely probable.

A later observation by PALISA gave

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Nov. 5, } 8^h 38^m 34^s \text{ Vienna M.T.} \\ \alpha &= 1^h 53^m 42^s.0 \quad \delta = +16^\circ 58' 59'' \end{aligned}$$

In case this asteroid of Oct. 29 was not no. 255, it will of course be no. 280; and that of Oct. 31 will thus become no. 281. But it will evidently be well to wait for a while before definitely assigning the number.

The system of numerical notation is meeting obstacles from a source by no means anticipated at the beginning.

G.

CORRIGENDA.

No. 185, Observations of Comet 1888 *f*.

Page 133, Nov. 1, Wash. M.T., for	$15^h 31^m 54^s.2$	put	$16^h 31^m 44^s.3$.
“ “ “ Declination, “	$-15^\circ 1' 37''.0$	“	$15^\circ 1' 38''.0$.
“ “ Nov. 11, “	$-13 \ 20 \ 0.4$	“	$-13 \ 19 \ 56.9$.
Page 134, Star 21, “	$-13 \ 24 \ 23.7$	“	$-13 \ 24 \ 20.2$.

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