

*Note on the Nebulæ near Merope.* By A. A. Common, Esq.

In the Supplementary Number of the *Notices* of this Society for 1880, there is an extract of a letter from Professor Tempel in which he states that I have evidently made the sketch published in the April Number with a telescope of insufficient power to show the *Merope* Nebula. Perhaps I ought to have stated that the telescope was of three feet *aperture*, but the mention of the fact that the stars on the sketch were pricked off from a photograph taken by the same telescope ought to have shown that it was of ample power. I drew attention to the fact that the patch of light near *Alcyone* was seen but once, but that the smaller patch was always seen as a detached portion. By the aid of a sketch which includes the small stars near, I am enabled to locate the Nebula on the map that Prof. Tempel gives. On this sketch are four small stars nearly at equal distances apart pointing to *Alcyone*, with three others that form with the four an acute triangle with *Merope* for the apex. Now the exact position of this detached Nebula from the sketch I made on February 29, 1880, is this: it commences at the faint star near *Merope* and passes over the three stars already mentioned, the major axis nearly corresponding to the line made by these three faint stars. In my sketch, two faint stars are also shown, and another faint one between the edge of the Nebula and *Merope*, the sky here being quite black—making this a distinct Nebula from that on the other side of *Merope*.

*Ealing,*

1880, November 11.

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*A New Nebula.* By J. Baxendell, Esq.

(From a letter to W. H. M. Christie, Esq.)

On the night of September 28, 1880, I observed a large but faint Nebula which is new to me, and which I do not find entered in any Catalogue or marked on any map I have in my possession. It is in *Aquarius*, near to and north of the fine cluster Messier's No. 2, its southern boundary, so far as I have yet made it out, being only about 7' distant from the cluster. It has an irregular oval form, its longer axis lying in a nearly east and west direction. A mean of several estimations gives its length about  $1\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ , and its breadth about 52'. It seems to be similar in character to the large Nebula near the *Pleiades*, but is slightly less bright. I have, however, seen it on several nights, and have no doubt of its existence.

*The Observatory, Birkdale,*

1880, Nov. 1.