

May 1887.]

Correspondence.

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the fact that ϵ has again diminished in brightness since his time may be admitted to prove that ζ was the one observed by Hipparchus, Ptolemy, Al-Sûfi, and Ulugh Beigh, and that ϵ is a variable of long period.

It would appear indeed to have undergone some other mutations of brightness in recent years. Sir William Herschel, in the place above referred to, states that he found it on the 3rd of September, 1784, of only between the fifth and sixth magnitudes. He remarks, indeed, that it was then observed in strong twilight, but says that it was "not much larger than either 11, 18, or 19," the magnitudes of which are respectively 6, $5\frac{1}{2}$, and 6. Mr. Gore estimated it in August 1875 of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ magnitude, and "very little, if anything, brighter than 111 Herculis," which is of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ magnitude. Mr. Franks, too, found it on June 20, 1879, "nearly two magnitudes less than ζ Aquilæ and equal to 111 Herculis; Sept. 12, 1879, a little brighter than 110 and 111 Herculis; certainly brighter than on June 20." On the other hand, Prof. Pickering, in his 'Meridian Photometry' (from observations made between 1880 and 1882), registers it of magnitude 4.1, and Prof. Pritchard, in the 'Uranometria Oxoniensis,' assigns 3.86 as the magnitude in 1882. It would appear therefore that the variations in brightness of this star are worthy of careful study, and that perhaps their period may be not very long.

Yours faithfully,

W. T. LYNN.

Blackheath, 1887, Mar. 4.

The Occultation of the Hyades.

GENTLEMEN,—

An unusually fine sky enabled the three occultations which took place last night to be well observed here. During the early part of the same night, time was obtained by transits of seven stars, high and low.

	h.	m.	s.	
θ^1 Tauri, disappearance	9	13	41	G.M.T.
θ^2 Tauri, "	9	22	7	"
B.A.C. 1391 "	9	29	26	"

The last differing much from the time given in the 'Nautical Almanack.'

The reappearance was lost to view, the moon having disappeared behind one of the mountains with which this place is surrounded. Telescope 4.25 inches aperture, 62.5 inches focal length, equatorially mounted; Lat. $52^\circ 47' 45''$ N., Long. $3^\circ 53' 30''$ W., by ordnance survey.

Faithfully yours,

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Dolmelynlyn, Dolgelley,
1887, Mar. 30.