

MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. LIII.

DECEMBER 9, 1892.

No. 2

E. B. KNOBEL, President, in the Chair.

John A. Brashear, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.;

Walter William Bryant, Seymour Cottage, Conduit Vale,
Blackheath, S.E.;

Captain James Fisher, Kentmere, Birdhurst Rise, South
Croydon;

Thomas Charlton Hudson, 3 Montpelier Row, Blackheath,
S.E.;

Francis R. Wardle, 43 Moorgate Street, E.C.,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The following candidates were proposed for election as
Fellows of the Society, the names of the proposers from personal
knowledge being appended:—

Harold John Adams, M.A., Civil Servant, St. John's, Cedar
Road, Beckenham (proposed by John M. Stone);

Samuel Barker, Barrister-at-law, 9 Hanover Terrace, Regent's
Park, N.W. (proposed by Arthur Kennedy);

P. Doyle, F.R.S.E., M.R.I.A., Editor of *Indian Engineering*,
19 Lall Bazar, Calcutta (proposed by Asutosh Mukho-
padhyay);

The Rev. Edwin G. Gange, Baptist Minister, Osborne House,
Cotham Park, Bristol (proposed by W. F. Denning);

John Spencer, F.G.S., Rock House, Crawshaw Booth, near
Manchester (proposed by William Garnett);

Anthony Stanbridge Thomson, Lieut. R.N.R., F.R.G.S.,
F.R.M.S., A.I.E.E., Telegraph Works, Silvertown, Essex
(proposed by Charles Bright).

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Seventy-one presents were announced as having been received since the last meeting, including, amongst others, *Zeichnungen und Studien des Mondes*, von Dr. L. Weinek, presented by the Prague Observatory; Second Glasgow Catalogue of 2,156 stars for the epoch 1890 . . . by Professor Robert Grant, presented by the Glasgow Observatory; *The Visible Universe*, by J. E. Gore, presented by the publishers; *J. Mabillon, Iter Germanicum*, Hamburgi 1717, presented by the President.

Note on Nova Aurigæ. By W. H. M. Christie,
Astronomer Royal.

The *Nova* appears to have again brightened recently after having become invisible during October in the 10-inch guiding telescope of the Astrophotographic Equatorial, and several photographs have been taken of it lately, comparisons with the companion star about 2' n.f. having been also made by eye with the 10-inch refractor. In this telescope it was noted as invisible about October 7 by Mr. Turner (who saw the companion star distinctly), on October 22 by Mr. Davidson, and on October 25 by Miss Everett. Mr. Davidson again looked for it on November 29, and was surprised to find it decidedly brighter visually than the companion star, and on November 30 Mr. Turner and Mr. Davidson both estimated it as about one magnitude *brighter* than the companion. As this star was estimated by Professor Krueger, in his *Revisionzone*, 1858 March 23, to be of 9.5 mag., the visual magnitude of the *Nova* as estimated by Mr. Turner and Mr. Davidson on November 30 would be about 8.5 mag.

From photographs taken by Mr. Davidson on November 29 and 30, and by Miss Russell on December 5, with exposures ranging from 16^m to 15^s, the *Nova* appears to be photographically about 0.9 mag. *fainter* than the companion star, the photographic magnitude of the *Nova* referred to the four companion stars (8.2 to 8.7 mag.) being 11.6, while that of the companion is 10.7 mag.

Thus while the *Nova* is now visually about 1 mag. *brighter* than the companion star, it is photographically nearly 1 mag. *fainter*; and it is to be noted that the companion star is photographically about 1 mag. *fainter* than Professor Krueger's visual estimate, so that it would seem that the *Nova* is now about three magnitudes fainter photographically than visually.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich:
1892 December 8.
