

The magnitudes given in the last column are rather hypothetical. They are adjusted so as to represent the brightness observed in the beginning of March of this return as well as the brightness at the time of discovery in 1921, which was called 12^M under circumstances corresponding to April 18 of this year.

COMET 1927 *d* (STEARNS).

The second comet announced since last month is an unexpected object found by C. L. Stearns at the Van Vleck Observatory, Middletown, Conn. It was found visually with the 20-inch refractor, in the course of the regular work on stellar parallaxes carried on at that observatory under the direction of Prof. F. Slocum. The comet had wandered into one of the parallax fields. The position at discovery puts it in the constellation of Libra:

March 10.420 . 15^h 16^m 6^s.4 δ $-7^{\circ} 21' 43''$ Magnitude 10.

From the daily motion, $-15'' +19''$, it appears that it moves slowly north-westward and therefore comes in better position for northern observers. The

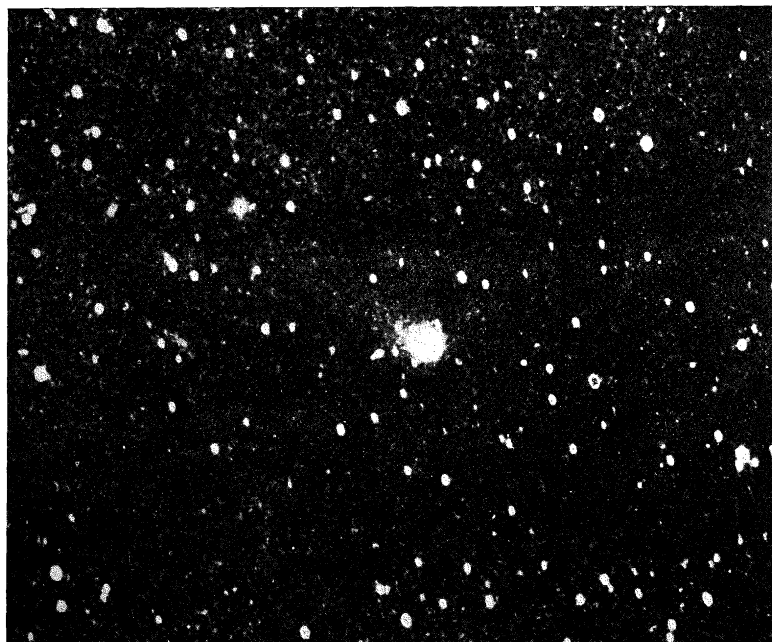


Figure 2.
COMET STEARNS (1927 *d*) MARCH 13.

telegraphic announcement was received here on March 12. That same night I secured several exposures with the 24-inch reflector. Plates exposed 20 seconds showed only the nucleus, the brightness of which was estimated as 11^M. The exposure being lengthened to 5 minutes, most of the nebulosity surrounding the nucleus made its impression so that the integrated brightness corresponds to 8^M.5. An exposure of 24 minutes with guiding for the motion of the comet brought out a faint tail about 10' in length in position-angle 215°. A reproduction of this plate has been tried (Fig. 2) after enlarging the original about four times and